

The April 10 meeting of the LTC (Local Trust Committee) at the South Pender Fire Hall was a lengthy and lively one. Twenty community members were in attendance for most of the agenda. There was an oral update on the Brooks Point Regional Park Phase 3 initiative accompanying the newly finished written report, which includes an ecosystem inventory and mapping of the regional park. The report, whose cover photo features the rare and endangered sharp-tailed snake recently observed in the Phase 3 portion of the park, is available at the PICA (Pender Island Conservancy Association) website: penderconservancy.org/brooks_point_ltc_report_map.pdf

An extended discussion took place regarding the 20-acre property at 8970 Gowlland Point Road for which there is a 4-lot bare land subdivision application. The subdivision triggers a parkland dedication. To satisfy this requirement, the owners are proposing the purchase and donation to the community of the recently disestablished Church of the Good Shepherd. Together with funding for necessary repairs, they offer the establishment of a trust fund for ongoing maintenance for approximately 10 years. Community members and representatives from PIPRC (Pender Island Parks and Recreation Commission) discussed their reaction to the proposal, some advocating for the more usual parkland dedication of a trail to an ocean vista, some expressing the wish to accept the offer of the Church of the Good Shepherd acquisition for the community. Questions about which organization could accept the ongoing oversight of the Church property, the costs to upgrade, the absence of water, bathroom facility and plumbing at the Church were raised and discussed. The proposal will now be taken up by the South Pender APC (Advisory Planning Commission) in consultation with interested stakeholders. The property owners' representative, Mr. Airey, also present at the meeting, indicated that if the Church dedication proposal was not accepted, the application would be withdrawn. Pender residents who wish to comment on the possibilities for this proposal can communicate in writing to the Islands Trust or to Liz and Mike, your Trustees. We will forward your communication to the APC for consideration. More details on this and other agenda items from the April 10 meeting are available in the meeting minutes at the South Pender Islands page of the Islands Trust website: www.islandstrust.bc.ca

It was also decided at the meeting that an online survey will be conducted of the South Pender area. This survey will include questions about the upcoming LUB(Land Use Bylaws) update, the Green Shores program, and also some general feedback questions. Proposed LUB changes and survey information will be released in an upcoming newsletter, and also by our online subscribers system.

Another piece of news is that the Pender Islands Trust office has moved. We now occupy the 2nd floor office at Hope Bay, formerly occupied by Dockside Realty, now relocated to offices in another part of the building. Our new office, shared with CRD, is a cost-cutting measure as well as a significant upgrade for both organizations. Our thanks to everyone involved in the move.