

Islands Trust Events for Islanders

The Islands Trust isn't just about controversial rezoning applications, permits, bylaws and bureaucracy. It's also about providing opportunities for community discussions and learning. This is the fun stuff, the stuff that builds grassroots democracy and, ideally, empowers islanders to do what we all want to do – take care of this precious island.

We seem to be in a season of Islands Trust-sponsored events on Denman. Here's a report, along with links to presentations from some of the events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Denman Community Design Charrette

Sept 6 – 9, Denman Activity Centre

Students and faculty from Vancouver Island University's new Master of Community Planning program are engaging in an intensive four-day community planning and design process focusing on the Denman village/downtown area (yes, even the name could be up for discussion!). The Denman Island Local Trust Committee is participating in the event but primarily this is a student exercise, led by two highly-respected planning professionals from VIU and Simon Fraser University.

A charrette is a community planning tool that allows diverse groups of participants to explore, understand and create possible and preferred options. Charrettes give visual form to ideas and encourage creative and innovative design solutions in a short period of time. The results can serve as inspiration and guidance for future Land Use Bylaw and Official Community Plan amendments, as well as for community groups, businesses and residents of the downtown/village area.

The schedule isn't finalized yet but will include several sessions for community input. This will be a chance to think, dream and talk about what we do and don't want for our small but vibrant centre.

More info in September's Flagstone and on the Denman Island Local Trust Committee webpage, <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/denman.aspx>.

Trust Council quarterly meeting

September 12 – 14, Denman Activity Centre

Trust Council is the body of 26 elected trustees from the 13 Islands Trust local areas. This council meets four times a year to make decisions, share information, learn, and discuss issues. Council meetings also give trustees a chance to see different islands and hear from islanders. The whole event (other than the *in camera* portion) is open to the public, and there are times set aside Wednesday afternoon for delegations (formal presentations from individuals and community groups) and Town Hall (an informal opportunity to speak to Council). Trust Council

members want to hear about issues affecting the Trust Area as a whole; local issues should be taken to the Local Trust Committee. Find the complete agenda on the Islands Trust website 10 days ahead of the meeting (<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/>). Find info on talking to Trust Council here: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/council-meetings/talk-to-council/>

RECENT EVENTS

First Nations and the Islands: presentation and discussion led by Fiona MacRaid, Islands Trust advisor on First Nations and marine issues

June 4, Back Hall

Approximately 80 people filled the Back Hall to hear about First Nations history, interests, and how our community can collectively take part in relationship-building. The event was emotionally powerful as it presented the history of indigenous people in this region from pre-contact through the successive impacts of European colonization. We also heard about the legal framework for First Nations issues in Canada and BC, which is changing and evolving rapidly. The evening ended with a thoughtful community discussion about our role in reconciliation. Thanks to everyone who attended!

You can find a copy of the presentation as well as other material on First Nations at <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/first-nations-relations/recent-events/> (click on *How We Got to Where We Are: 37 First Nations and the Islands*).

Wells and Our Groundwater Workshop, presented by the Islands Trust, The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, and Vancouver Island Health Authority

June 23, Back Hall

We had about 30 people show up for this informative presentation which covered the geology of groundwater, types of wells, how to ensure your well is in good condition, when and how to test your well water, and water conservation. I certainly learned a lot, not all of it comforting as it's impossible to talk about water without talking about climate change. Scientists predict a 5% increase in winter precipitation, and an 18% decrease in summer rains, with average temperatures rising 1.6 degrees celsius by 2050, so now is the best time to learn about good stewardship of water.

Find the slide show from this event, as well as other information on groundwater issues, here: <http://islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/advocacy/water-advocacy/>