



Island Visions, Values, Fears and Hopes

What do Denman Islanders value about the region they live in? What do we want to see protected and preserved? What are our biggest concerns as we contemplate climate change and the future?

These three questions were the focus of the Islands Trust Islands 2050 visioning meeting at the Denman Community Hall on October 29. The results will inform ongoing work updating the Islands Trust Policy Statement, an overarching vision document for the whole Trust Area. If you weren't at the meeting (or even if you were) you can learn more and join the conversation at islandstrust.bc.ca (click on *Join the Conversation* in the bottom right corner).

Here is what came up, based on the flip chart notes (I've changed the order to group similar statements, and tidied up a bit for clarity, but otherwise present the notes as recorded). Hopefully we can all find some inspiration and ideas.

What do you value about the Trust Area?

- Safe for family & raising children; low crime
- Community support; community participation
- DIY quality to culture
- Shared/informal economy, exchange, barter, trade
- Information & expertise among community
- Intentional communities
- Romance of the Islands
- Absence of services & conveniences
- Local food & food security
- The dress code
- Tranquility, peace, animals, nature, birds
- Night sky, stars
- Forests
- Beaches
- Water: creeks, lakes, wetlands
- That the Islands Trust exists and has its mandate
- Quasi sovereignty; Trust as unique form of government; we're not at the mercy of the nearest municipality for land use

In the context of a changing climate, what concerns do you have for the region over the next 30 years?

- Deforestation; loss of forest cover
- Loss of old trees; some tree species more susceptible to drought than others
- Increased wind—impact on trees
- Clearing lots when building new homes
- Forest fires—loss of homes & buildings; health challenges due to smoke
- Firesmart not appropriate on coast/islands
- Farming focusing on animals over plant-based
- But not all farm land suitable for plant agriculture
- Aquaculture on foreshore—use of plastics and its impacts on bio-diversity and all animals

- Emissions; ferry emissions
- Need more charging stations; not everyone can afford
- Water use vs availability; water wars
- Salination of groundwater
- Loss of wetlands
- No restoration plan for wetlands, forests, etc.
- No plan for invasive species (terrestrial and marine)
- Erosion due to increased rainfall
- Social conflict—gap between haves and have-nots increasing due to climate change

What opportunities do you see to preserve and protect the Trust Area?

- incentives to protect land and water; entice land owners to set aside land for protection (South end)
- Land Use Bylaw should protect water & forest cover
- Protect shorelines and address debris
- Develop relationships between upland owners and foreshore aquaculture leasees
- Need more reforestation than deforestation
- Water studies (William Shulba's work); water research is too slow; protect aquifers; water and development are equal; need water budget study; need to learn from past water practices
- Concerned about water buying & selling (bottling)
- Rainwater catchment (requirement? Esp for rezoning?)
- Greywater treatment; composting toilets
- Wetlands in Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) need protection (setbacks) so ALL wetlands are protected
- Islands Trust needs more powers (e.g. regulate commercial logging, aquaculture, fisheries, ALR...)
- Keep it affordable when making requirements and meet everyone's needs
- Economic vision tailored to ecology
- Islands Trust to work with other levels of government for economic opportunities
- Encourage plant-based agriculture (e.g. fruit and nut trees, food forests, agro-ecological/organic farming, no mono-cropping)
- Islands Trust communication with Islanders about applications—more public input
- Regulation drives out affordability
- Educating kids and adults about the environment
- Opportunities for First Nation knowledge-keepers to educate adults and children
- Work cooperatively with First Nations and support their rights and title; learn from their traditional knowledge
- Think of carrying capacity definition