



# HORNBY ISLAND TRUSTEES' REPORT

BY ALEX ALLEN AND TONY LAW

(We had a full agenda at our LTC August business meeting which included some significant issues for our Island.)

## Water

A hot dry summer with lots of visitors can get us thinking about the Island's water resources. At our August meeting we initiated a project to address groundwater protection and water conservation. The project will be led by William Shulba, Freshwater Specialist with the Islands Trust. He will be working closely with Hornby Water Stewardship and coordinating with ministry and regional district staff, consultants and researchers.

The project will involve reviewing existing information on Hornby's groundwater, addressing knowledge and data gaps and identifying regulatory and other approaches to groundwater protection and conservation. It will include freshwater workshops and strategic planning for a proposed Freshwater Preservation and Conservation Committee.

Our ability to sustain a vibrant island is having

enough water for community ecosystem needs. Groundwater protection tools can support healthy aquifers and groundwater wells in a future of changing climate, landscape and human activity. This project builds on leadership work by our community over the past quarter century.

## Housing

A delegation from the Hornby Island Housing Society outlined how this new framework for community housing is moving forward to make the Beulah Creek project a reality. After supportive votes by the membership of ISLA and Elder Housing, ISLA has transferred ownership of the Beulah Creek property to the Elder Housing Society, which has changed its name to create a single housing organization for our island. The delegation described the advantages of this structure for advancing community housing goals. The Beulah Creek land is zoned for both rental and ownership housing.

We received and discussed a Housing Needs Assessment commissioned by the Islands Trust which identifies significant needs for rental housing. The Beulah Creek project, as presently conceived, would go some way to address these needs. We are committed to working with the community to explore possible additional options for accessible housing on residential lots.

These would likely only be possible on rural lots because there are significant water/



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In the Comox Valley - Hornby Island

wastewater challenges on small lots and the ALC does not support agricultural lots being used for housing. The last time our Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw were reviewed, secondary suites and detached units (through a Temporary Use Permit) were added as additional options on rural lots. However, there has not been any uptake of these options.

In the meantime (as with other communities), housing is being addressed through non-permitted solutions. We see a need to identify options that work for our community through finding a balance between addressing potential impacts of additional housing and minimizing bureaucratic barriers for applicants. We are keen to get moving on this.

### Ferries

Last July and August, our ferry route (Route 22 between Hornby and Denman) had the highest capacity utilization of any BC Ferries' route: 99% and 102%. In 2017, Route 22 also had the highest percentage of overloads of any route: 14.9%. From what we are hearing, increased traffic this year is creating an even higher level of overloads. The LTC has written to both the CEO of BC Ferries and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to seek measures to address this situation.

We have asked that BC Ferries engage with the Ferry Advisory Committee to explore options to prevent a repeat of these overloads. These could include deploying a larger vessel and/or extending the schedule at both ends of the day. The reality is that a larger vessel may not be available and, if it is, this would need to be discussed with both communities. An earlier first sailing and additional evening sailings would spread the traffic over a longer period and make it easier for people to connect through at the beginning of the day.

We have asked that the Ministry explore with the Ferry Advisory Committee changes to the level of service BC Ferries is contracted to provide on our route so that is more in line with actual level of traffic that needs to be carried. ¶

**Next Local Trust Committee Meeting:  
Friday Sept. 28, Room to Grow, 11:30 am.**

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

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

## HORNBY ISLAND THEATRE SOCIETY (HITS)

The past year has been a good year for theatre on the island. HITS staged two productions, the much beloved pantomime, *Much Ado About Panto*, directed and produced by Andrea Kaback and Melisa Devost and the thought-provoking and poignant youth production, *The Unraveling*, directed by Andrea Kaback and produced by Melisa Devost.

These productions take many hands and HITS is always grateful for the hours of volunteer time people contribute to make these productions happen.

On this note, we would like to invite you to our AGM, Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup> 1pm in the Green Room (back of the Hall). We are currently seeking new board members and will also be discussing the 2018/2019 season. If you are at all interested keeping theatre happening on Hornby, please come! There are many different ways you can be involved, come find out more!

As always, thank you for supporting live theatre on Hornby Island. ¶

Cheers, the HITS board.