

Pender Post May 2020
North Pender Trustee Corner
By Deb Morrison

I hope this month finds you and yours well and safe. I know the last few months has been difficult for many of us as we adjust to physical distancing, uncertain economics, and new ways of doing everyday things. I first want to thank all those who have stepped up in our community to fill needed gaps and to continue to deliver necessary services. To the CRC who quickly worked out a way to shop for those who shouldn't be out in the community - I say thank you. To our essential health workers, emergency services, and police who continue to keep us well and safe - I say thank you. To the grocery stores, pharmacy, hardware store, and other merchants who have made enormous adjustments but are working through how to keep open and serving - I say thank you. To the hall programs that have adjusted to keep contact with our community in a number of ways - I say thank you.

To all of you who are keeping physical distancing but staying socially close - I say thank you. The other day after playing disc golf with Graham, we were headed home and came across two women walking and chatting...from opposite sides of the road. Good job, keeping healthy - both physically and mentally - with each others company and still keeping physical distance. I also wanted to say that every night, we as a family go outside in the evening at 6:55 pm and listen. As 7pm comes we start to hear drums, singing, and howling. I know this can be disruptive to some of the animal life on the island but I have to say that personally it fills my soul. I hear the spirit of the Penders at this time, the deep love of community that is shared on the wind and I appreciate the night after night effort to connect with each other. Yesterday, we went for a run down at Trincomali and there on the community board was a sign that asked neighbours to join the Pender Howl. Thank you all for trying to make sure we all know we are in this together.

Finally my I would like to acknowledge and thank those of you who are struggling through this pandemic due to loss of work. We as a community should realize that keeping us all safe comes at a cost, a cost that is not equally felt. We should continue to provide as much support as we can to those who are struggling. I know the CRC is working on ways to connect people around gardening. I ask that if you are someone who has resources, consider how you can buy locally, employ someone needing work in work around your property in safe ways that still respect physical distancing, contribute to the food bank, or co-garden with those who may not have room to grow food this year but could benefit from reduced grocery costs. As a community we can come through this safe and stronger - together.

As a Trustee, I continue to work in a number of ways. Our meetings will go virtual for awhile as of the end of April and we'll try new ways to continue to ensure transparency and public participation. Please communicate via email prior to the meetings if you have specific points you want considered on an application. While the past month has not left me much time to communicate via phone, I am remarkably up on email and suggest that and texting as the most direct methods of communication at the moment. As always I value the input of all in decision making processes and thank those who have communicated in thoughtful and respectful ways about various issues.

Stay well and safe Pender.