

Sue Ellen Fast



Candidate Statement

I love Bowen and have been deeply involved in community life here, contributing to and leading various projects and committees over thirty years. In 1992 I began as a daily commuter and renter. My husband and I raised our son on Bowen and we run our consulting company from our home, near Collins Farm. Maybe you have seen us on the trails where we walk daily with binoculars, cameras and dog.

Future: I hope Bowen will look much the same, from the air at least. Lots of trees, nature and wildlife, including herons and whales; all sorts of people active in community life and on the trails and beaches. This vision is similar to the one in our current official community plan. A small, friendly, caring community, sharing a unique island lifestyle and supported by well-protected natural ecosystems. That's what I'm working toward. Nature and Community.

Bowen Council: Serving the last eight years as municipal councillor has been a positive and challenging experience, and an honour. Besides regular council meetings and items I bring to those agendas, I have served on all sorts of committees. Closest to my heart is the Parks, Trails and Greenways committee, which I have usually been part of since the mid-90s. Currently I also serve on other committees, from emergency program to advisory design panel, library board, to the Biosphere's Ocean Watch Action Committee, and the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council.

Islands Trust: To be part of the federation of islands in the Salish Sea "entrusted" with the mission to protect this special part of the world is wonderful. I see it as a sort of greenbelt between Metro Vancouver and southern Vancouver Island. Over the past eight years I have relished the opportunity to protect the trust area's beauty, wildlife and unique island communities through Trust Council. Currently I serve as a vice-chair on the executive committee, and also as vice-chair of the Islands Trust Conservancy. Happy to chat about the Trust and the benefits to Bowen – please ask.

OCP: I chaired the Official Community Plan steering committee for the most recent update, ten years ago. I'm proud of the work we did in leading an open collaborative process with high community input. Affordable housing was one dominant community

theme, and protecting our “green oasis” was the other. Both are reflected in our current OCP. Today climate change and reconciliation join them, I believe, and all need to be addressed in an interconnected way. Is it time for another refresh? I would welcome the creative ideas and input we can generate together to take action.

Some career highlights:

- conservation learning programs in urban greenways: Edmonton, Toronto, Calgary, Ottawa
 - wrote and hosted *Nature Walk* television series, across North and Central America
 - thousands of hours connecting children and families to nature outdoors – what fun
- More:

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