

From: Islands2050
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 8:11 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Response to By-law 183

From: Ian Middleditch [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 8:47 PM
To: Paul Brent <pbrent@mac.com>; lee@fulford.ca; Trustees <Trustees@islandstrust.bc.ca>; john.horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>; murray.rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca; MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Response to By-law 183

I wish to express my extreme opposition to Bylaw No. 183. There is so much wrong with it I hardly know where to begin. First there has been insufficient community input. Second, even our own elected trustees seem blindsided by it and to keep this short, I will finish with the issue closest to my heart. I have been making most of my living from cutting trees on virtually every island in the trust area for nearly forty-eight years, as both a logger and the principal of my own tree service business. I believe we should treat property owners as responsible adults who can make their own decisions regarding tree cutting on their own land. This is not downtown Vancouver or Victoria and property owners should not be saddled with onerous fees for various consultants before they can hire me to remove a tree that is blocking their sun or view. Even though some owners may seem to go over board in their actions, the vast majority will not and the net effect on the ecology of the islands will be less than negligible. In the fifty one years since I first came to this island, the most abusive land use I've seen has been the recent clear cutting of a large portion of the First Nations' land on Saturna. Perhaps the Trust's time could be put to better use lobbying them to clean up the mess before we have a catastrophic fire because of it. And, while I'm on that topic, perhaps they could also lobby Parks Canada to access the vast area of land they own with roads that could be used to knock down the fuel load and provide a means to fight the catastrophic fire that will sooner or later occur there. Water bombers and helicopters are not always available and not always hugely effective in fighting fire.

Thank you for your indulgence in reading this letter.

Ian Middleditch, Saturna Island.