

- **NEW BRIGHTON DOCK UPDATE**
- **NEW BRIGHTON DOCK COMMITTEE DELEGATION TO SCRD APRIL 21.**
- **OCP ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP**
- **ROADS**
- **ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL**
- **GAMBIER LTC POLICY STATEMENT WORKSHOP/SURVEY**
- **GLASS SPONGE REEF CLOSURES**
- **EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB**
- **SUNSHINE COAST INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING**
- **INCREASE IN LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE BYLAWS**

NEW BRIGHTON DOCK UPDATE – sent on behalf of the GICA Dock sub-committee

Most activities about the dock have been on hold for a variety of reasons as outlined below but here is what new information the New Brighton Dock committee has.

The GICA – NB Dock Committee met over zoom last week with Shelley Gagnon, General Manager, Community Services for the Sunshine Coast Regional District to review the current situation.

The Sunshine Coast Regional District did carry over \$25,000 into this year’s budget for exploration activity regarding the long-term future of the New Brighton Dock. This money was not used last year in part because, despite several postings for a ports coordinator, management were unable to secure a person to fill the position that would support this initiative. The post was finally offered successfully, and a new person will begin this week.

Ms. Gagnon noted that she has been speaking with a staff director at the Squamish Nation to get a better understanding of their position concerning the dock. She confirmed the SCRD’s commitment in working together toward a community dock strategy that explores a way to retain a community use dock as an option for the Squamish Nation to consider.

The Squamish Nation Marine Group is still waiting for its water lot lease application for the dock to be considered by the Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) see CL File: 2412377 on their application website. Applications of this nature can take 2-3 years to process. This is the same for the barge ramp crownland application that the Marine Group also applied for earlier this year.

There have been no direct discussions about the long-term future of the dock between the GICA – Dock committee and the Squamish Nation Marine Group since before the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Uxwumixw Council had its elections in October 2021. Over the past six months, there was a major restructuring of Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Uxwumixw governance and management. Now the New Brighton Dock is part of its asset management operation - the Nch’kaý Development Corporation.

Many residents and users of the dock have noticed that the New Brighton facility is deteriorating. Although the Dock committee is not a maintenance committee, it has alerted the Squamish Nation Marine Group to a number of issues and we hope to see some maintenance done soon. We are all appreciative of Joley Switzer’s ongoing battle to keep the grating down on the float.

Trustee Stamford continues to advocate for action to support a long-term public ownership solution to the New Brighton Dock to the province through the Trust. Ambiguous authority to make decisions about the structure continues to be a huge issue at all levels as well as staff capacity. Until the Squamish Nation Marine Group actually makes a statement of interest to sell or divest the NB dock and there is a clear understanding of what is for sale as well as its condition, it is very difficult to proceed with requests for specific support or funding.

The Dock committee continues to push for a coordinated solution to ensure the NB dock is permanently maintained as a publicly supported facility given that it is the critical access point to the communities on the Southwest Peninsula.

Given its importance to the local islanders, and the uniquely complex arena of other interested parties, including the Squamish Nation, BC Ferries, the Regional District, the provincial and federal governments; the coordination and financing of a solution is beyond the capabilities of any one group.

How You Can Help

GICA New Brighton Dock Committee will be presenting as a delegate to the Sunshine Coast Regional District Community Services Committee on **April 21st**. The purpose of the meeting is to remind the SCRD Board of the importance of this transportation hub and to urge action by the regional district to help find a long-term solution to maintaining the New Brighton Dock as a public facility. **We hope you can join via zoom to show community support.** Director Hiltz reminded me yesterday that the SCRD staff is still being impacted by COVID absences and that virtual public attendance is preferred. See here for connection details: [SCRD - About Us](#) and more information about the specific time in the agenda will be made available when it is released.

April 2022 Trustee Report

The past six weeks have been very busy so here is a brief outline and links of possible interest to islanders.

- Attended a virtual meeting hosted by the province about overall goals for high-speed internet connection to remote areas and new funding options.
- Participated in two introductory meetings with the **Gambier OCP engagement working group**. Along with the OCP Engagement Working Group, I have been working on two community maps with a local graphic artist and with the Island Planning and Mapping department. I look forward to providing these maps as resources to islanders soon.
- Attended a virtual **GICA New Brighton Dock Committee** meeting and am supporting their communication out to the community.
- Organized a virtual **roads meeting** with volunteers from primarily around the Southwest Peninsula and Capilano Hwy Serves staff representatives. We hope to see a regular Committee struck through GICA once a Chair can be found. Note that grading has begun along West Bay Road and work is expected to continue for the next week. Although the pot-holes are gone, the road surface is very rough and muddy in places at the moment. Representatives from parts of Gambier not serviced by Capilano are reviewing options for more support for their road infrastructure.

March 9-11 **Trust Council in Nanaimo** – See link to highlights here:

<https://mailstorm.caorda.com/campaigns/mk932tfnr6d3c>

March 15 - Chaired the Islands Trust Conservancy Board meeting.

March 28 - Attended the **Gambier Local Trust Committee Policy Statement workshop 2050**. About 15 local islanders attended via zoom. Good comments and questions as well as questions about local issues such as the Keats Island Foreshore Protection project and the New Brighton Dock. There is still an opportunity to take the survey and have a say in the long-term vision for the Islands Trust. The survey closes April 17th. <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/islands2050onlinesurvey>

March 17 – **Islands Trust Conservancy Species at Risk Workshop** – An online day-long workshop for scientists, citizen scientists and local conservancies across the Islands Trust federation to report about successes and challenges in supporting federally listed species at risk. Attended as a board member of the Islands Trust Conservancy which has received funding to support SARA initiatives on the islands. Ruth Simons was the keynote speaker as Executive Director of the Howe Sound/Atl’Kat7sem Regional Biosphere.

March 25 - **Participated in the Ocean Watch Action Committee.**

- presentation by a federal Regional Fisheries Management Officer about new glass sponge reef closures in Howe Sound. See the link to a good Coast Reporter article for a more detailed background: <https://www.coastreporter.net/local-news/five-more-glass-sponge-reefs-in-howe-sound-protected-by-new-closures-4978227>
- presentation about invasive European green crabs so please stay vigilant about their possible arrival in the area. <https://www.squamishchief.com/local-news/if-you-see-the-european-green-crab-report-it-says-dfo-5249600>

March 29 – **Howe Sound Conservation Network.** I attended this collaborative meeting at Totem Hall in Squamish as Chair of the Islands Trust Conservancy. It was a valuable opportunity to connect with the new Rights and Title staff of the Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw and discuss with all the other conservation groups the exciting work that is being done throughout the area. The Gambier Island Conservancy continues to advocate for better protections for old-growth forest on the Island.

March 30 – Virtual attendance at the **Sunshine Coast Intergovernmental Meeting** including Sechelt Band members School Board Trustees, the two municipalities and the SCR D Board. Of the many initiatives that were “championed” at the meeting, I volunteered to participate in the housing group as there was some discussion about a vacant homes tax which could have a potential impact on recreational property owners. This is a very preliminary idea and I will make sure islanders are kept informed of any developments.

March 31 – **Gambier Island Local Trust Committee Business Meeting.** Passed 3rd reading of the New Fee Administrative Bylaws to bring development fees in line with current local government costs. See details beginning on page 20. <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/document/gambier-ltc-regular-meeting-agenda-8/>

Finally, weather depending, I thought it would be nice to meet informally outside at the community centre tentatively on April 23rd around 1:00 pm. We could bring our own coffee and snacks and just gather to discuss local issues and exchange information for supporting each other. If it is successful, I am willing to host a similar gathering possibly on a monthly basis. I will confirm closer to the day.

Any questions, or suggestions for future Trustee Update topics please do not hesitate to contact me at kstamford@islandstrust.bc.ca

Warm Regards,

Kate-Louise Stamford
Gambier Island Trustee, Islands Trust
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Chá7elkwnech

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work in the territory of the BOKÉĆEN, Cowichan, Halalt, Homalco, K'ómok, Klahoose, Lake Cowichan, Lekwungen, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Penelakut, Qualicum, Scia'new, selííwitulh, səíílwətaʔt, SEMYOME, Shíshálh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Skwxwú7mesh, SʔÁUTW, Stz'uminus, SXIMEŁEŁ, T'Sou-ke, Tla'amin, Tsawwassen, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, WJOŁEŁP, WSIKEM, and x^wməθk^wəyəm.

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