

From: Sharon M [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2021 9:11 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Input and questions

Dear Trustees:

As a resident of Denman Island, I think there are some important tasks that the Denman Island Trust and/or the Islands Trust should make this priorities.

1. Create a pamphlet that is sent out to every person who becomes a new resident and land owner on Denman (or on a Trust island in the case of the Islands Trust).

Most land owners have little to do with the Trust unless they are the object of a complaint. The Trust matters little to them and, from their point of view, it looks like they matter little to the Trust as well.

Communications from the Trust, in any form, are few, and few of us islanders know what they concern themselves with. That is why I suggest a pamphlet with a SIMPLE description of the Trust, their structure and purpose, including how the Trust can impact an island resident.

For example, If you want to:

1. build a house or other building.
2. put in a septic field or drill a well.
3. get a tax exemption.
- 4.(in future?) cut down a dangerous sick or dead tree.
or a tree that interferes with your TV or internet reception.
5. etc.

then you must contact the Trust. Please publish appropriate contact information.

It appears to me that complaints are an important mechanism for motivating the actions of the Trust. Please include in your pamphlet examples of complaints that are appropriate to make to the Trust. Here's a possible example: My neighbours have a B & B, and twice their tenants have had loud, late-night parties. When I called my neighbour on the phone, no one answered. Please add other examples of appropriate complaints and the details needed—and, of course, that “contact information”.

2. Improve your website!

I have a great deal of trouble using your website; When I tried to find “The Trust Policy Statement”, which seems of great importance right now, I saw no reference to it, so I went to “I want to...” and said “See the Trust Policy Statement”. That led me to a policy statement from the 1990's. I finally found it after much searching. Maybe you could add alternate search titles which would help (eg. “Islands 2050” or “bylaw 183”)

Every time I go to the Trust site, I tell them my location is Denman Island and press “save”. The next time I visit, the same thing happens. Please fix “save”.

3. At the beginning of all documents, please print a glossary of abbreviations used in the document and their meanings (eg. NATEP (Natural Area Tax Protection, ITC (Islands Trust Conservancy), or LPS (local planning service) AND print the numbers of all bylaws referred to in the document with a short description of each. Not everyone knows the bylaws' numbers off by heart!

There are a few other concerns I have as well.

I believe that the Trust of each island should be able to make additional laws to those made by the Federal and Provincial governments—laws to meet the unique needs of each island. However, I do not agree with the encroachment of Federal and Provincial powers that is being suggested by the Trust. I think that would be a big mistake . For example, “missing and murdered women” have not (to my knowledge) come from the Trust islands. We should leave this to Federal and Provincial governments. The Trust has enough to do!

I understand that the Trust wants the same powers as municipal governments on “cutting trees”. What are these powers?

The amount of money budgeted for the Trust seems large to me. How does it compare to an example of a municipal government that deals with a similar population?

Lastly, I would like to have some sort of live meeting where I can get information on the Trust Policy Statement (bylaw 183) , answers to my questions, and hear what other islanders have to say. I understand you have paid a professional to arrange that in some form or other. Please make sure you tell people about it when it will happen!

Thank you for listening. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Sharon Mackin