

# Trustee Notebook *By Laura Busheikin*

## Film Screening and Talk by Cowichan Knowledge Holder Harold Joe

Islanders are invited to a screening of *Dust n' Bones*, a 45-minute documentary that explores threats and opportunities connected to the preservation of First Nations cultural heritage in Coast Salish territory.

*Dust n' Bones* brings to light the legal, political, historical and spiritual challenges faced by First Nations leaders and archaeologists as they fight to give disinterred ancestors their proper reverence.

Framed around the pending transfer from the Royal BC Museum back to their indigenous community, *Dust n' Bones* takes us through the discovery, preservation and rededication of human remains and artifacts, and with them, a reclamation of First Nations culture and history.

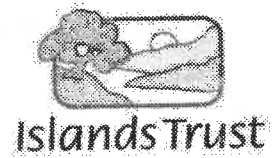
The main thread of *Dust n' Bones* is the work of Harold C. Joe, a Cowichan tribe member, film-maker, traditional grave-digger, and cultural knowledge holder who has been challenging appropriation by museums, universities and private collectors for over 40 years.

### **Following the film, Harold Joe and Islands Trust representatives will talk about the work we can all do to help preserve and protect cultural heritage in the Islands Trust Area.**

In the film, Harold Joe describes how his work as a traditional grave-digger is rooted in tradition. The techniques and practices he uses are the ones his ancestors have used for centuries, and draw on knowledge that has been handed down generation to generation via oral teachings.

This film screening is intended to inform and deepen our understanding of what it means to live in a place that is so rich in Indigenous history and connection. The presenters hope and expect that the screening and discussion will lead to engaged, heartfelt and well-informed conversations that will invite us to see this place, and our role here, through new eyes.

This event was made possible with funding from the Islands Trust's History, Heritage, and Conservation Grant-In-Aid. If you have a history, heritage and/or conservation project in the Islands Trust Area, and want information about the grant, you can find it on the Islands Trust website.



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### ***Dust n' Bones* film screening with guest speaker Harold Joe**

**Sunday:** September 26, doors open at 2:00, film starts at 2:30; event ends at 4:00

**Where:** When: Denman Island Community Hall

**Admission:** free

**COVID protocols will be followed** as per BCCDC and Community Hall regulations at the time.

A refreshments concession will be provided by the Denman Reconciliation Group.

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### **Update on Policy Statement Review**

Many Islanders are keeping tabs on the review of the Islands Trust Policy Statement, the overarching policy document that guides decision-making across the Trust region, which is finally being revised after 25 years. A draft of the proposed changes has been created and the next step is public input. The review focusses on climate change, reconciliation and housing policies, as these are all topics that have changed and grown dramatically in the past 25 years.

Gathering public input in a fair and meaningful way from several dozen islands across the Salish Sea region is not an easy undertaking. The Trust has been developing a plan for this, which will be considered at the September 21 – 23 Trust Council meeting.

Assuming the plan is endorsed, you can expect opportunities to engage in the next few months. In the meantime, you can read the draft as well as useful (and interesting) background material at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>.

To stay informed via email about input opportunities and other developments in the Policy Statement review sign up for "Islands 2050 Updates" on the website at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/>. You can also sign up for other updates (for instance, announcements of upcoming Islands Trust meetings on Denman) at this location.