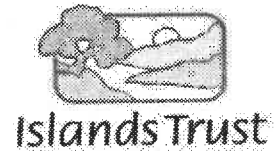


Trustee Notebook *By Sam Borthwick*



Well, summer has passed us by, and we are now firmly into autumn. As I write this, it's still mid September, so, on the Islands Trust front, there's a lot coming in the next few weeks, including a Trust Council meeting, which is being hosted on the Penders on the 25th to 27th of September. As yet, we don't have an agenda for Trust Council, so I can't expound fully on what will have been talked about there (that's a bizarre chronological conundrum to resolve into a sentence), but there are a few topics that are already known to be coming forward for that meeting, including the BC Ombudspersons Office report on the Bylaw Enforcement Department, further refinement of the Strategic Plan, and some glimpses of what business cases are going to be advanced for next year's budget. Annually, August sees something of a slowdown for the Trust, but in September we geared up once again, and I've had privilege to partake in meetings for both the Trust Programs Committee and the Regional Planning Committee.

The Trust Programs Committee (TPC, for short) reviewed some more correspondence from Mr David Dunnison, of Salt Spring Island, who has been working to bring attention to technical inaccuracies in the definition of the Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) biogeoclimatic zone, and in the tone of Island's Trust literature, which he suggests should be more positive in it's portrayal of the benefits of private land and forest stewardship.

The TPC also passed a motion directing staff to develop a series of webinars geared towards stewardship education, especially in regards to water management and wildfire prevention, which should be going live early in the New Year, and staff will be looking for input for future programming of this nature. I know that the production of these programs is controversial for some, and I certainly plan to watch closely for their dollars-to-efficacy ratio, but I have a strong preference for education over regulation, and I'd like to give these programs every chance to be a successful vector for important information around fostering and perpetuating healthy relationship between the land and those who live upon it.

At the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) meeting, we received some excellent correspondence from Denman's own Harlene Holm, which covered a number of subjects, but was primarily focused on on the *Freshwater Sustainability Strategy* report from December 2021, and some recommendations on how to galvanise reports and planning into actual action. "The eternal present should not be a starting point for research and planning", to

quote Harlene, which is definitely a sentiment I can espouse, as I near the end of my first year as Trustee. The RPC additionally received a Housing Needs Gaps Analysis, which pertains to the legislatively mandatory Housing Needs Assessments that the *Local Government Act* that, as of April 2019, requires of all communities every five years. While the analysis outlined a great deal of supplementary data that can also be submitted as a part of this process, the RPC has directed staff to only seek the base level of information required by the Act, as acquiring the secondary data would likely double the cost of the process overall.

Staff also advanced a few business cases for approval, the most controversial being a request for \$100,000 to effectively redo an Eelgrass Mapping project after some of the gathered data from a previous attempt proved unreliable in a number of areas. Due to the high cost of redoing the project, and the fact that the Islands Trust is far from the only organization with a duty towards this kind of work, the RPC voted not to approve the request for this business case, although we have left the door open for staff to pursue grant funding if appropriate, ideally in collaboration with other agencies with a stake in the data, such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Pursuant to delegations made at the March Trust Council by the Raincoast Conservation Foundation, and the Gulf Islands Alliance, a working group has been appointed, with members from both the TPC and the RPC, to consider how the Montreal Charter on Biodiversity impacts the work of the Islands Trust, and how it's tenets can be adhered to and incorporated into our overall plans. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework aims to halt and reverse global biodiversity loss by 2030- and intimidating goal by any metric, but one whose neglect would have profound implications worldwide.

Well, I am out of space here, but I look forward to entering my second year as your Trustee, and as always, invite any and all members of our community to reach out with any questions or insight that they wish to offer, both to myself and David Graham, but also to our Housing Advisory Planning Commission (HAPC), who meet every week on Tuesday evenings in the Activity Centre Lounge to discuss the future of housing legislation on our island.

Happy October!