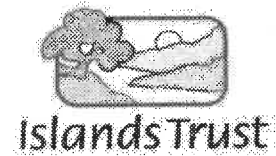


# Trustee Notebook *By David Graham*



First off, thanks to those who have taken the time to read these monthly Trust articles, Sam and I appreciate the feedback. If there is a Trust topic you would like covered, we are happy to hear that too.

The October Denman Local Trust (DLTC) meeting was held early in the month. Reading through the 180 page agenda, I was struck with how much information we Trustees are given in the course of the work we do, approving various permits etc., or reviewing work done by other groups who help support the decisions we make. A great example would be a review of the many meeting minutes of the newly created Housing Advisory Planning Commission (HAPC) included in our agenda and part of their interim report. Meetings held in the Activity Centre Lounge every Tuesday since the start of their work, with presentation by over 50 Denman Islanders. The depth this group is going to crafting their recommendations to the DLTC, to be presented in November, should give the DLTC and the community much to think about. Not sure of the timing of our first Community Information meeting, but we will make sure to give lots of notice.

New business followed a Delegation which presented a well-crafted, well documented request to the DLTC, to revisit an earlier request by the 1995 Local Trust Committee, including local Trustees Mandryk and Ludvigsen, which wrote to the Chief Executive Officer of BC Ferries, asking: "We believe that a direct sailing between Hornby Island and Vancouver Island is the only long-term permanent solution which satisfies Trust policies as well as the interests of the Community". Included in this delegation's presentation was a reference to a petition from 1931, 20 years before a direct ferry service linked our two islands, by Hornby Islanders, asking the Courtenay Board of Trade for a direct ferry.

Trustees Mandryk and Ludvigsen, also noted that the volumes of traffic and consequences arising, do not comply with Denman Island's Official Community Plan (OCP), which states among other things: "to develop strategies to manage vehicle traffic demand and diversify traffic loads rather than expand vessels or parking and staging areas" and "To maintain safe tranquil, scenic roads, to maintain adequate ferry service to Vancouver Island, and to encourage walking and cycling on Island roads and ferries".

Many years have passed since that letter was sent off. Traffic crossing Denman during the summer months has grown considerably, bringing with it an intolerable amount of traffic hurtling across our bucolic island in search of a

more advantageous position in the Denman to Hornby Ferry lineup.

Previous attempts to be heard focused on BC Ferries and Highways, siting their contribution to the ever increasing problem. BC Ferries has taken the stand that they are simply a Transportation company, responsible for providing access to the two islands and nothing more. Highways argued that their role is simply to provide safe road access across Denman. Neither entity wants to admit culpability. The focus of this delegation used "land use impact" as the lens through which Ferries and Highways should consider the request. , impacts such as: environmental degradation, congestion, danger to pedestrians, children, cyclists, wild and domestic animals, risk of fire, air and noise pollution and stress on residents and visitors of both islands enduring endless ferry waits.

In July/ August 2022, 19,026 vehicles crossed Denman Island one-way en-route to Hornby. It seems some Hornby Islanders share our concerns. One letter included in the delegates submission was a letter of apology, which included this paragraph: "Many of us came to these islands to build homes, grow gardens, volunteer in the community, travelling only when necessary, never dreaming we would impose the destruction of a forest on your island to benefit our economy. And we sincerely appreciate the natural value of these islands before we arrived here." And concludes with: "Again, sincere apologies to our Sister Island. We are still looking for solutions to balance protection of our islands and the economy."

At the end of their presentation Chair David Maude and I agreed to write that letter!

Finally, a decision, regarding suggestions on what Bylaws could be included in the "Bylaw Enforcement Notification Bylaw" (BEN), was deferred till the November meeting to allow Trustee Borthwick and me a chance to discuss them.

Should you wish more information or simply want to chat about Trust stuff, my email is [dagraham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:dagraham@islandstrust.bc.ca) Cheers till next time.