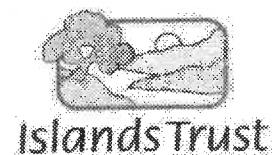


Trustee Notebook *Sam Borthwick*



Well, Fire Ban season is once more upon us, and the heat is well and truly on.

As I write this, I'm sitting in the lineup for the ferry at Shingle Spit, coming back from running what was supposed to be a "quick errand" on Hornby. Frustratingly, I've been the third car on the wrong side of the cutoff twice in a row now, but I have to say- while it's never entirely possible to dismiss the many and varied frustrations of Routes 21 and 22, sitting in the golden light of a warm, breezy July evening, listening to the waves and the birds, and the sounds of children terrorizing one another in the waiting area- it's not impossible to let BC Ferries slip away for a moment, and deeply appreciate the twin beauties of these islands.

I've once again wound up in the awkward position of writing this nearly a month away from our next Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting, so while I have some hopes for what we may see on that agenda, I don't yet know for sure what will be there. Nor has there been a recent Regional Planning or Trust Programs Committee (RPC and TPC, respectively) meeting for me to report on.

I have done some checking in with staff in the past weeks with regards to their progress on the housing project, and from what I have been told, there's been some solid foundational work accomplished, but we're not yet at the point of seeing draft bylaws.

That said, I hear that we may have some good news coming in regards to our current minor project, regarding the discontinuation of Temporary Use Permits (TUPs), which was sheared off from the main body of the housing project precisely so that it might move forward while more complex matters are deliberated further.

TUPs were initially intended to help facilitate the construction of secondary dwellings, but their inherently temporary nature- requiring renewal every three years, with the attendant possibility of refusal- has proven to be a barrier to those seeking to make such investments to help house their community, so we're seeking to make that a more secure opportunity by removing that particular component of the planning requirements.

There are still a number of other factors that determine whether such constructions are appropriate for any given lot, including freshwater provision, wastewater management, and environmental impact on sensitive areas.

I am deeply grateful to my fellow trustee David Graham for shouldering last month's Notebook, as I was unfortunately incapacitated with some wicked food poisoning during Trust Council on Salt Spring.

There is a lot to discuss and think about in regards to the fiftieth anniversary of the Islands Trust, and much of it is beyond the scope of what will fit into this page, but as always, I encourage anyone with questions or feelings about the Trust to reach out, I'm happy to share my perspective, hear yours, and to help wherever I can.

One side-topic that I did want to mention from the aforementioned Trust Council was the introduction, by Trustee Deb Morrison, a decorated climate scientist, of the topic of the Dark Sky Initiative, which is a deliciously ominously named project that seeks to limit light pollution in communities around the world.

While I can't deny my appreciation for the dramatic name of the initiative, I am also deeply appreciative of the goal of preserving our precious nocturnal darkness, on behalf of local wildlife, for human health and wellbeing, as well as for the magnificence of our night skies.

By and large, I think we're very rich in darkness on our island, for which I'm very grateful, but I am keen to raise the awareness of the benefits of leaving the lights off, and look forward to learning more about the programme, and bringing opportunities to learn more about it to the island, if there's interest.

I hope you are all enjoying these long summer evenings, and encourage you to get out and revel in the beautiful twinned lights in the darkness that come to fruition in the coming weeks- the phosphorescence, and the Perseid.