

January 21, 2025

TO: the members of the Denman Island Local Trust committee

RE: Development Variance Permit DE-DVP-2024.1

FROM Gracie MacDonald on behalf of the Denman beach access committee

I am writing you today regarding this variance permit application, on behalf of an adhoc group of volunteers who are planning to open up and mark as many of Denman's 50 road allowances/beach accesses as possible.

We are asking that you not approve any variance that reduces the road setback or is on the road right of way. Millard Road is a popular and rare public access and the LTC should encourage its maintenance to the same safety standards as any road. Reducing the setback makes the road harder to maintain and less safe to drive on. As well, granting this permit will send a message to property owners that it is okay to build on or too close to public right of ways and then, if you are found out, to ask permission later.

The Millard Road access is one of the very few here that is properly labelled and accessible on foot or 4 wheel drive. Many of our accesses, such as Janet Road at the end of Dalziel, are not marked with a road sign, or, like Largo Road, just south of Millard, are neither marked, nor cleared, (through the work of the regional district in partnership with DIRA, that access may soon be walkable.) Some accesses, like the end of Reginald, have been helpfully labelled by neighbours and users.

Unfortunately, many are blocked by neighbouring property owners' fences, gates, garden sheds and the like. I am attaching an Islands Trust map of the approximately 50 identified roads to the beach, most of which we cannot use in their current form.

Millard, while treacherous with the wrong footwear or tires in winter, is a dusty jewel of public access for Denman residents to launch a kayak or swim.

I apologize for our late response here, which is another concern: public notice. Sending out a letter on the day before Christmas Eve, and only the adjacent neighbours, does not reach all the users of Millard Road road.

Rather than approve chipping away at this road, please consider sending a message that we value making our beaches accessible and we want the ministry of transportation to maintain our roads.

Thank you,

Gracie MacDonald

Denman Island



**Denman Island  
Official Community Plan  
Bylaw 185**

**Schedule F  
BEACH RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

