

## **Trustee's Report - Tobi Elliott**

### **Summer 2024 Activities and Upcoming Meetings**

#### Munu Canoe fundraiser for Snuneymuxw First Nation members

June 28th fundraiser at xw cumi:lucun was hugely successful thanks to the many community members who participated in the raffle and bought tickets to paddle in the two Munu Family Journey Canoes. We raised \$2,700, or approx. 1/4 of the necessary funds to send Munu Canoe on Tribal Journeys, who departed July 21 for the 10 day paddle to Puyallup, WA. **Thank you** to all the volunteers who helped can salmon, make lunch, move tables and chairs, and added so much 'uy skwaluwun to the day!

July 1 Canada Day, was celebrated at the Gabriola Museum, Prayer by Snuneymuxw Elder Geraldine Manson, Flag-raising by RCMP, reading by Trustees Susan Yates and Tobi Elliott

July 9: Naut'sa mawt Oceanside Wellness Network I attended the first in-person meeting on Gabriola Island. The topic was emergency preparedness in relation to weather, heat domes, and cold weather events, and I was glad to see the number of advocates working on action plans with the emergency management department of the RDN.

July 11: Cultivate Festival. I attended and said a few welcome words at the opening, along with RDN Director Craig, MLA Sheila Malcolmson and MP Lisa Marie Barron. Congratulations to the festival organizers for keeping the Arts alive and honouring the lands and waters that inspire our creations!

July 16: Special Meeting on Mudge Island We held a special meeting on Mudge Island to hear community concerns about Bylaw Enforcement Practices, and Safe Water Access. A large number (60+) of complaints were made this spring about Mudge Island properties being out of conformity with the Land Use Bylaw. Mudge Islanders attended LTC meetings in May and June and expressed deep concern over how our complaint system is being used, and how the situation is causing rifts, fear and distress in their resilient and self-sustaining community. Trustees and staff have been responsive, meeting with representative members of the newly-formed Mudge Island Community Association (MICA) to work together on a better process. Bylaw Enforcement and Compliance staff conducted two educational webinars to explain the process and answer questions, which helped a great deal, but there was still a lot of concern and worry expressed at the July 16 meeting. I am so grateful for the hard work of MICA directors in being so proactive as a representative body for Mudge Island, as we wouldn't be able to address the underlying issues without their input.

Culturally Committed met for our third quarterly community call in July. We discussed place names and how most of the Indigenous names for places had been suppressed and erased from the public record. Witnessing racist rhetoric (and public denialism of residential school burials) emerge from places like City of Powell River, located on the traditional territory of the Tla'amin people who are a self-governing nation. The Regional district has already changed its name to "qathet Regional District—a name gifted by the Tla'amin Nation that means "working together". The Mentors spoke to how central Names are to places, and how important the restoration of rightful names hits home for many, as the name is often how we understand and relate to a place.

I want to celebrate and honour the local efforts to support Indigenous place names on Gabriola, Snuneymuxw territory. A lot of collaborative work went into creating the new Snuneymuxw First Nation Gallery at the Gabriola Museum. Conceived and directed by Elder Geraldine Manson, the Gallery is a crucial step forward to respecting the heritage and the understanding of this place. The interactive exhibit was launched on National Indigenous Peoples' Day (June 22) and features a touch screen with interviews, Hul'q'umi'mum language information, maps and Snuneymuxw stories.

Gabriola Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Review - I published an update earlier in the Trustees corner and in the Gabriola Sounder Aug 7th. I'm pleased to see engagement moving forward this summer, with community input being sought on Principles, Values and Goals. I'll keep attending markets with staff throughout the summer. Email me if you have any questions or ideas about the process, or an event we can come to: [telliott@islandtrust.bc.ca](mailto:telliott@islandtrust.bc.ca) The survey is open now until Sept 30 for those who want to give feedback online. And you can always email your thoughts if you have more to say: [gabriola2050@islandtrust.bc.ca](mailto:gabriola2050@islandtrust.bc.ca)

In the Fall 2024 to Spring 2025 will see topic-focussed targeted engagement. We will host discussions on topics such as: Cultural Heritage Protection, Suitable Land Analysis, Ecosystem Policies, Housing Policies. More information will be coming, and all can be accessed at this link on our website: <https://islandtrust.bc.ca/island-planning/gabriola/projects/gabriola-ocpreview/> As always, you can find all staff reports, information about the project, and correspondence here: <https://islandtrust.bc.ca/island-planning/gabriola/projects/>

CONEXT Climate preparedness Hub: Submitted an application to participate in the Climate preparedness learning hub, with Trustee Yates and Fay Weller. We will hopefully be accepted and able to bring back information on climate preparedness to add to the work community groups are already doing.

Snuneymuxw Days August 26-28th. I attended one of the days to cheer on the Canoe races. It's lovely to see the new Elders shelter for viewing the water. Congratulations to Snuneymuxw on their second annual event celebrating Snuneymuxw culture!!

Executive Committee met July 3 and 24th.

Trust Policy Statement Amendment project:

Council has held two Committee of the Whole (COtW) meetings to discuss the new draft of the Policy statement, which landed on [a public agenda May 30](#) with a lot of background materials. I highly recommend reading through and comparing to the first draft that came out in June 2021.

The second (July 7) COtW meeting was largely in-camera to receive legal counsel on the current draft of the Policy Statement. A further meeting will held Aug 22 ([agenda here](#)) to consider more legal advice. Council is taking its time to work through the questions we have, which will culminate in an 'Approval-in-Principle' draft by Trust Council, hopefully this fall.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Executive Committee Aug 21: A strategy session with the other Trustees attending UBCM is planned for how to advance our requests to the various ministries. The only resolution Trust Council has advanced is a request that the Ministry of Health update the Manual of Composting Toilets and Greywater Practice (2016). The Islands Trust resolution requests the province to also fund demonstration projects and professional development for practitioners. Adoption and regulation of composting toilets by regional districts is extremely rare, in part because of a actual and perceived risks of setting up these alternatives to plumbed septic systems. Many experts say that contrary to current scientific knowledge regarding pathogen decay and phytotoxin control, the MCTGP is interpreted by practitioners too conservatively. Full agenda on the [Executive Committee's meeting here](#).

Committee of the Whole: August 22. [Agenda here](#).

Regional Planning Committee: Sept 4th I have been working throughout the summer with two other Trustees on a Tiny Home Regulatory Framework - a visual guide that could support Local Trust Committees work through options available to make tiny homes legal in their communities. We hope to have a graphic-ready guide to share at UBCM Sept 16-20.

Also on the agenda is the next iteration of the [Bylaw Enforcement and Review Project](#). Bylaw Compliance and Enforcement staff are working on policy documents for each Local Trust Committee, which will increase local control and accountability on how enforcement is conducted in each area, and will incorporate standing resolutions and other localized direction. Gabriola LTC has already seen a first draft of a local BLE policy document in May 2024, and the Mudge Island Community Association has given substantive feedback, which will be discussed at a special meeting with MICA directors Sept 12.

When RPC met on April 25, 2024 we discussed the Freshwater Sustainability Strategy, and asked staff to “provide a review and status of all past and current projects undertaken as part of the Freshwater Sustainability Strategy and report back to include in the draft implementation plan with a table similar to the Housing Strategic Action Plan”, so looking forward to seeing actions laid out for the next year.