

Trustee Elliott Notebook

Summer 2024 Activities

Planning “Dust n Bones” Screening Met with SIRA, Communications Specialist, and community members to begin plans for a screening of Dust n Bones on Gabriola in Fall 2024.

CAO Hiring Committee Met several times in summer. Leaders International Firm’s search received 100+ applications from across country. Reviewed short list of candidates. Participated in interview process.

Snuneymuxw Council to Council meetings

Good will to continue meeting, sharing information and learning about our respective processes. Staff are in dialogue about referral processes, and we are learning more about which applications Snuneymuxw First Nation wants to review through their referral portal.

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

Executive Committee met July 3 and 24th

Naut'sa mawt Oceanside Wellness Network, July 9. 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.

Cultivate Festival, July 11. I attended the opening and said a few words. Honoured to share the stage 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!

Special Meeting on Mudge Island, July 16. A special meeting was held in person 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 held its 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". Our Indigenous 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, in 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.

Snuneymuxw Days July 29-30. 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!!

Gabriola Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Review Project. 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.

- 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@islandstrust.bc.ca
- **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://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/gabriola/projects/gabriola-ocpreview/> As always, you can find all staff reports, information about the project, and correspondence here: <https://islandstrust.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.

Executive Committee Aug 21. Full agenda on the [Executive Committee's meeting here](#)

- **Preparation for UBCM:** Executive committee met with Bowen Trustees and other Trustees attending UBCM. Islands Trust did not secure meetings with Ministers, but have applied for meetings with Ministry staff.
- Requesting to meet with Ministry of Health to advance the Trust's resolution to Update the Manual on Composting Toilets and Greywater (2016), and Housing Department of Building Standards and Safety re: tiny home regulations.
- 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 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.

Trust Policy Statement Amendment Project (PSAP) Committee of the Whole meeting Aug 22. Mostly held in camera to hear legal counsel.

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/document/trust-council-committee-of-the-whole-special-meeting-agenda-3/>

- Agenda contains a very useful scan of **Local Government Reconciliation Initiatives and UNDRIP Implementation:** "a snapshot of how the guiding documents of other local governments in the Province address reconciliation with Indigenous Governing Bodies and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)
- We also discussed strategies for structuring debate at future Committee of the Whole conversations on the new draft Policy Statement.
- Next COW discussion I will be chairing at TC in Sept on the Policy statement Objective 3: Preserving and Protecting Healthy and Biodiverse Ecosystems.
- **Background on PSAP:** Council has held two Committee of the Whole (COtW) meetings to discuss the new draft of the Policy statement, which was published 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. 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.

Financial Planning Committee Aug 28 Guidelines for Budget decisions 2024/25 forwarded to Trust Council. Reviewed some business cases for LTC projects.

Regional Planning Committee, Sept 4th
[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.
- Considered a plain language draft manual on Bylaw Enforcement for the Public.
- Considered and discussed updates to Trust Council Policies for Complaints - (currently administrative complaints only) and TC's Bylaw Enforcement Policy 5.5.1. Made recommendations for TC to consider in Sept.
- **Freshwater Sustainability Strategy Implementation** - 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". **Islands Trust Area Freshwater Atlas Project** - 1st phase rolled out this year.
- **Islands Trust Area Groundwater Recharge Mapping Project** - The final phases of the project are concluding this fiscal and RPC can expect a compendium report from staff that collates all reports and information from every project fiscal year into one document with staff analysis of integration opportunities
- **Housing Strategic Action Plan, Action 26: Advance discussion with the Province on Tiny House legalization and regulation.** RPC reviewed the work of the Tiny House working group (Trustees Boland, Elliott and Campbell). We have created a map of a potential [Tiny Home Regulatory Framework](#). The THOW Guide provides a fairly comprehensive overview of the four areas decision makers would need to address in order to regulate Tiny Homes on Wheels: Servicing, Zoning, Certification/Standards and Tenure.
- **RPC is recommending to Trust Council that it focus its efforts to address affordable housing through advocacy and work to legalize Tiny homes.** We will request funding to coordinate technical working groups among agencies to regulate THOWs in the Islands Trust area. The group identified that a common framework of understanding among agencies - Regional districts who do the permitting of houses, and Islands Trust LTCs who regulate zoning - is needed in order to identify problems and solutions and come to agreement.