

Trustee Report – May 2020

Gambier/Keats Local Trust Committee meeting Thurs May 28th

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee is having its first fully electronic online business meeting beginning at 10:30am.

See the link for the agenda and instructions for getting into the zoom meeting.

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/meeting-calendar-agendas-minutes/>

For Gambier Islanders, a highlight in this package is an outline of actions and goals that the Islands Trust is taking to address climate change.

Past Trustee Activities:

I outline this information to update my fellow Trustees as well as provide islanders with highlights that may be of interest to them.

A number of planned meetings including the one with the Sunshine Coast Regional District regarding docks on Gambier Island was cancelled due to pandemic restrictions. I expect they will be rescheduled shortly.

April 9 – **Wolf Webinar**: here is the YouTube link to the webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPYyASJciUU&t=975s>

There were about 65 people who popped on and off during the 1 1/2 hour session with the CO. I really appreciated the excellent questions and comments that provided a wide variety of views. Just a basic current situation outline: one younger male wolf was trapped and killed by the CO at the Sea Ranch for going after livestock. The CO guestimates there are between 3-6 wolves on the island and that it could be a family unit. The current policy of the Conservation Office is not to get rid of the wolves on Gambier as they have not had significant reports that indicate the animals are habituated to people. These animals will go after dogs but are very unlikely to be aggressive to humans. Keep your dogs leashed or fenced in. Do not provide attractants in your yards for deer. Always assume there are predators around when you have small children in the wilderness interface in BC. Please report all interactions with predators on Gambier to the RAPP line 877-952-7277

I haven't heard of any wolf sightings since the webinar. Has there been any recent activity? Are they all gone?

April 24 – **Howe Sound/Atl'ka7tsem Community Forum** (webinar) a shortened form of this bi-annual gathering of elected people from around the area. The focus was more about community responses to travel restrictions and other changes due to the pandemic.

April 28 – **Check-in call with MP Weiler** to update him about how Islanders were coping with isolating and other issues relating to the pandemic. We talked about the ways the communities were supporting neighbours and I think it was ok for me to say that residents were happy to be able to physical distance on-island. We also touched on the possible sale of the New Brighton Dock and support for the Biosphere initiative.

April 28 – **Area F West Howe Sound Advisory Committee** – zoom meeting

April 30 – **David Suzuki Foundation Mapping Project** workshop (webinar). There are some amazing information tools being developed for the Atl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound area. This mapping project has something for everyone including herring spawns, shipping lanes, whale sightings, glass-sponge locations, docks – layers upon layers of data. You can develop your own maps as well. Check it out here: <https://davidsuzuki.org/project/howe-sound/>

May 13 – **Land Trust Alliance of BC AGM** phone meeting. In my role as Chair of the Islands Trust Conservancy.

May 20 – **Islands Trust Local Planning Committee**. There is very interesting work being done on this committee around water sustainability, climate change and forest cover mapping. Once complete, recommendations will be disseminated to the Local Trust Committees to incorporate into the Official Community Plans and Land Use Bylaws.

May 22 – **Ocean Watch/Marine Reference Guide** update. Met *in person* but outside at Horseshoe Bay with members of the Ocean Watch Task Force to discuss moving forward with the goals of this group of elected representatives, staff and NGOs.

Upcoming (all online):

- Islands Trust Conservancy - May 26
- Finance Committee (Islands Trust) – May 27
- Howe Sound Biosphere Initiative Strategic Planning – May 29
- SCRD Islands Cleanup update meeting – June 4
- Celebrate Howe Sound/Atl'ka7tsem Event – June 8

It has been important to provide extra support the Gambier communities during the pandemic with a lot of adjustments to accommodate and communicate out especially around travel and other advisories. Islanders have really shown their rural spirit; have been patient with their neighbours; and have demonstrated extra common sense as the situation changes around them. I am honoured to represent Gambier during this turbulent time.

Here is a recent article in the **Coast Reporter** that demonstrates the type of community spirit that is blossoming across the islands:

<https://www.coastreporter.net/news/local-news/islanders-build-ad-hoc-supply-chains-during-pandemic-1.24127043>

Contest for the Youth of Howe Sound/Atl'ka7tsem to Celebrate in Art and Writing

<https://howesoundguide.ca/celebrate-howe-sound-atl%E1%B8%B5a7tsem/>

As a part of the Celebrate the Sound Event there is a photo/word submission contest for the Sound's student populations! The goal with this contest is to include and elevate youth voices, ideas, and participation in our event and project. For more information please see:

- [World Oceans Day: Photo and Word Submission Campaign](#) (Submission due May 29th)
- [Zoom Webinar Registration](#) for Celebrate Howe Sound / Atl'ka7tsem (Event on June 8th)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the Islands Trust or issues around the island.

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