

- RIPARIAN AREA INFORMATION
- ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS
- ISLANDS TRUST BUDGET 2021-2022
- SCRD ISLANDS CLEANUP SCHEDULE
- SCRD BUDGET 2021-2022
- GAMBIER ISLAND CONSERVANCY NEW WEBSITE
- ANNAPOLIS ARTIFICIAL REEF PROPOSED ADDITION
- HOWE SOUND/ÁTL'KA7TSEM AQUATIC VALUES SURVEY
- SOUTHWEST PENINSULA ROADS COMMITTEE
- BC FERRIES ROUTE 3 RESERVATION CHANGES
- LIMITED SPACE ON THE STORMAWAY
- DOGS

April 2021 Trustee Update

I have been remiss in sending out a Trustee Report over the past few months.

GAMBIER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

Next meeting: May 27 10:30am via Zoom.

To see details about the upcoming meeting (the agenda package is available about a week prior) or to see a recording of the previous meeting please go to:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/whats-happening/meetings-and-events/> and click on the relevant date.

Riparian Regulations and Sensitive Ecosystems - important

As there has been a turnover of new property owners, many of whom are interested in possibly building, I have attached the plain language copy of the riparian area brochure that was sent out last year. It is a good reminder to everyone that all private land on the island is now covered by a Development Permit Area that will require anyone who is building/developing/clearing (with a few exceptions - see brochure) to go through the permit application if the land disturbance is within 30m of a water or wetland feature.

What may not be intuitive is that this includes:

- features that contain water or are wet only part of the year
- road-side ditches
- dug ponds

It doesn't mean you cannot build within this setback area; it just means an environmental report is required to determine mitigation measures. The trigger for this report is as soon as you consider altering land within 30 metres of any water feature including a simple driveway across a ditch.

Brochure -

https://mcusercontent.com/57751b6b398595ee9e288baa1/files/32ded8cf-4401-4e1d-87d4-3b123c9b597f/Riparian_Area_Plain_Language_Brochure_2020.pdf

Island Trust Planners can walk you through the process: 250-247-2063

WHY??????

Water is a defining aspect of biodiversity as well as human habitation on an island. Any disturbance of land - including clearing, digging, and building, affects the ability of the land to retain and recharge the water table.

Gambier Island is completely dependant on rainfall for water. It does not have access to snow-pack storage nor is the island connected to an accessible deep rock natural reservoir. Using the provincially required Riparian Area Protection Regulations and including all wetland/water-course features in a development permit area is the least onerous mechanism the Islands Trust has to protect this precious resource that we all rely on.

Gambier Island is one of the very few islands in the Salish Sea that is not facing ongoing serious water shortages. The Sensitive Ecosystem Development Permit Area is how we all take responsibility for maintaining a healthy island.

ISLANDS TRUST FEDERATION

The Last Trust Council was a three-day virtual event in early March. Here is a link to the highlights: https://islandstrust.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/tc_2021-03_9-11_decision-highlights_final-1.pdf

Budget: Every spring the Trust Council passes an annual budget. I want to thank everyone on Gambier who made the effort to participate in the survey. The responses from our island ran the gamut from "reduce taxes and programs" to "increase taxes and programs" but the majority of respondents were in favour of keeping taxes and programs the same. As I voted for a budget that included a 3.5% tax increase* to landowners, I would like to state why:

- I have sat on the Finance Committee for more than a year and participated in line by line examination of ways to cut the budget. It was a robust and difficult process.
- The Trust is seeing a variety of important initiatives coming to fruition. I don't want to see their value jeopardized by cutting them now.
- The majority of the Islands Trust budget is staff salaries set by the BCGEU agreement with the province. Their step increases are not negotiable and planning staff, as well as staff of the level of expertise at the Trust, are very sought after across Canada and cannot easily be replaced.

Here is a link to a brief outline of the Islands Trust 2021-22 budget: https://islandstrust.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/it_tc_2021-03-16_budget-approved_nr_final.pdf

- *Given that the Islands Trust approximately 15% of your total rural property tax you are looking at about an increase of \$3. more per \$100,000 of assessed property value. Reminder that this is only a portion of your overall rural tax breakout. Also see SCRD budget increase below.*

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

2021 SCRD Summer Islands Clean Up Schedule

For new residents this is an annual service provided by the Regional District to Islanders. Water access communities are part of the "Flag Stop" schedule and register for a barge pick up of land fill and recyclable materials. People who live on the South West Peninsula bring their garbage to a central drop off point of bins where staff, contractors, and volunteers sort and contain the garbage.

Date	Time	Island Event
Sat Jul 17	Start 7:00am	Gambier Island and Anvil Island – Flag Stops Starting at Avalon Bay heading towards Grace Islands, West Bay, Centre bay, Long Bay, Hope Point, Camp Fircom, Halkett Bay, Brigade Bay, Anvil Island, Douglas Bay, end at Ekins Point
Sat Aug 7	To be confirmed	Keats Island – On land events Keats Landing – timing TBD Eastbourne – timing TBD
Sat Aug 7	To be confirmed	Gambier Island – On land event New Brighton – timing TBD
Sat Aug 7	Start 7:30am	Keats Island – Flag Stops Starting at Plumbers Cove heading towards Melody Point, Barnabus, Cotton Point, Ragged, Pasley Islands, Worlcombe, Popham, Hermit ending at Sandy Beach
Sat Aug 28	Start 10:00am	Thormanby Island Buccaneer 10:00am -11:00am Vaucroft 11:30 am

Sat Aug 28	To be confirmed	Trail Island – Flag stop Exact timing to be confirmed
To be determined	To be determined	Nelson Island* Starting at Vanguard Bay

*Due to unfavorable tides this summer, we have not yet found an ideal day for the Nelson Island clean up event. We will contact island residents directly as soon as we know more.

Preliminary details regarding materials accepted to www.scrd.ca/islands-cleanup. The website will be updated as details are confirmed.

SCRD Budget:

The Regional District also passed it's 2021-2022 budget last month. A breakdown of highlighted projects as well as expected tax increases can be found here. Note: Gambier is an Area F Island.

<https://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/News/2021-March-18%20-%20News%20Release%20-%20Budget%202021%20%E2%80%93%20Round%20%20budget.pdf>

Gambier Island Conservancy – The Conservancy has launched a stunning new website. Take a minute to look at the great work this local group does around the island. <https://gambierislandconservancy.ca/>

Annapolis artificial Reef at Halkett Bay proposed addition -

<https://www.castanet.net/news/BC/330557/Helicopter-sculpture-proposed-for-artificial-reef>

Howe Sound/Átl'ka7tsem Aquatic Values Survey - If you have approximately 20 minutes consider filling out this survey about what you value in the Howe Sound/Atl'ka7tsem region (marine and freshwater). This requires a bit of thought as well as mouse drawing skills so a computer/laptop is better. Fiona Beaty and her team's research feeds into the Biosphere Initiative as well as Ocean wise and UBC studies that inform and build awareness of our amazing coastal home.

https://new.maptionnaire.com/q/32uwp76gas9v?fbclid=IwAR1GQLzHPAy8uaD_CKf-gNCpYZR1bnbHiWfmt9291TjzBdHNbEIKBd-3iU

OF INTEREST TO THE SOUTHWEST PENINSULA

Roads Committee – As Joyce Clegg is no longer on the island, the local roads committee has gone dormant. I would like to re-start the committee as a liaison between the community on the South West Peninsula and Capilano Road Services to ensure ongoing maintenance issues are addressed; including scheduled dust control and verge trim in the summer and salting/snow clearing in the winter. The Committee generally meets twice a year (spring/fall) with the Capilano staff. It is a straightforward

operations style meeting and usually doesn't last more than 1 ½ hours. If you are interested in participating please let me know and I will organize something with Tyler Lambert – Capilano Operations Manager and Scot – on-island maintenance, for sometime in May.

BC Ferries – The Ferry Corporation is piloting a significant change in how Route 3 (Langdale-Horseshoe Bay) is managed for the coming high season. Please see the link if you expect to travel by car on this route over the summer months. <https://www.coastreporter.net/local-news/scrd-endorses-bc-ferries-route-3-trial-3658609>

Space on the Stormaway Deck – A reminder that passengers are still restricted to the outer deck of the Stormaway and therefore space is at a premium especially as we head towards the busy summer months. Passengers should consider not bringing 4-wheeled wagon-style trollies during the busy runs as they take up more space.

Dogs – Please keep your dogs under control at all times (ie leash while on the road). There have been instances of dogs biting pedestrians. It is also for your pet's safety with traffic, other dogs, and predators.

If you have any questions about topics in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me

Warm Regards,

Kate-Louise Stamford, West Bay
Trustee, Gambier/Keats Local Trust Area
kstamford@islandstrust.bc.ca
C:778-235-2240

Our website is: <http://www.gambierisland.org/>

Serving:

Gambier Community Centre Society
Gambier Island Community Association
SW Gambier Fire Equipment Group
Islands Trust - Gambier Island Local Trustee
Gambier Island Conservancy