



Islands Trust

## Trustee Report

by Alex Allen

At our November Local Trust meeting, not the usual packed crowds of late, but still, those 11 who did attend made their concerns known at the Town Hall and as delegates.

- One member expressed concerns about how long the application process takes. They asked for more information and clarity on what is required of a Development Permit Area (DPA), and not just a learn as you go process.
- The 5G wireless network was opposed; and a member had concerns regarding a TELUS cell tower on Hornby Island. [It's not a tower but a pole upgrade by the Co-op for internet connectivity.]
- Geoduck harvesting was opposed – concern was expressed regarding the harmful effects from that industry.

The Sustainability Group announced that they will be hosting an event on the topic of Hornby Island Economics and Tourism on April 5. They added that the previous forum on protecting ground water and septic treatment and the impact of tourism, was well-attended with over 80 people.

We discussed the Islands Trust 2050: *Engaging about the Future of the Trust Area*, and noted that many came to the event, although comments from the community were primarily relating to questions to help understand the Islands Trust in general, rather than visioning for the future. Which tells us, that we need to do more education on the Islands Trust what, who and why to the community. The when (as in how long?). We continually struggle with an answer.

A delegate, representing Hornby Island residents affected by Riparian Areas and DPAs (HIRARADPAs), noted that Hornby Island had two reports prepared with respect to the designation of Riparian Areas and the reports are varied. They believe the designation of DPAs was based on incomplete data, that the designation process was unfair, and that non-fish bearing creeks, wetlands, drainage ditches and seeps that are dry for more than half the year were not given adequate consideration. She requested that review, consultation and follow-up education be considered.

We acknowledged the different methods utilized by the two companies contracted to provide the RAR reports and the uncertainty that this has created. It was agreed that we need to determine if natural boundary delineation and required setbacks meet current provincial guidelines.

Grant noted that a Development Permit

application was received in June, but staff review appeared not to be complete yet; and commented that there may be a need for more planning staff to process Hornby Island applications in a timely manner.

Regarding the Regional District Housing Feasibility Study, we acknowledged that Hornby Island is already included in a Housing Needs Report and requested additional information before we consider possible participation in the project.

And finally, many other islands in the Trust Area are either participating in or considering live streaming their Local Trust Committee Meetings. We would like to hear from you, our community members, whether there is an indication of interest in filming and live streaming our meetings. Please give us feedback via email to one of your Trustees or drop off a note at the Free Post in the LTC Box. Please provide detail to your feedback, not just a yes and no – but, why? Till next time.

We had a LTC meeting January 24 after paper deadline.

**Next LTC meeting March 20 at 11:30 am at Room to Grow on Sollans Road.**

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**Planning or Building?** Contact a planner at northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca or call toll free, and ask to be connected to the Islands Trust Northern office by calling: 1 800 663-7867.§



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