

This summer there have been several complaints brought forward about personal watercraft (Jet Ski's), much of it currently focussed in the Dinner Bay area but the issue has been raised around the island in recent years. It is understandable for the user these are fun recreational devices – but it is also important to also understand that endless hours of fun for one person can result in unbearable annoyances for others and may well have ecological impacts that need to be considered. As with everything in a small community, please think of your neighbours and others, whether it be mowing your lawn, cutting firewood, entertaining outside or enjoying yourself on the water. Moderation and consideration are key to the respectful enjoyment of a rural community lifestyle. In the use of your Jetski, perhaps instead of running around in endless circles you could do a trip around the island or to a specific destination and back. Mayne Island has never been a 'no fun' community and few desire the regulations that would make it such a place.

This does build into the reality that parts of the island such as Bennett Bay and Village Point are becoming more 'Urban' in nature and community and social expectations are evolving. With the upcoming Zoning Bylaw proposed amendments we are working to recognize this situation by reinforcing the need for some more urban standards on small lots while at the same time embracing and supporting the rural properties and the overall rural nature of the island. One of the proposed amendments limits a property owner to one unlicensed motor vehicle stored outside on smaller lots (the size has not been decided, but ½ acre and less has been suggested).

There is much excitement in the air over the Mayne Island Housing Societies success in obtaining land for an affordable housing initiative. At our September meeting we will receive the first of what will be many staff reports as we move forward in our deliberations. Jeanine and I attended the information meeting held by the Society on September 14. We have heard concerns about potential impacts on the neighbours, particularly in regards to ground and surface water – these issues are on our radar and are being reviewed early in the process. This will be a substantial rezoning and will have several opportunities for public input and review prior to final decisions being made.

We have been exchanging correspondence with the CRD with regards to the St. John Point Park. There have been concerns raised by neighbours and community members about the plans to develop a 20 car parking lot, washroom facilities and other amenities. The current zoning for this property allows for a "Park, passive recreation" (Defined in the Land Use Bylaw as a park which is retained in its natural state other than for walking and hiking trails and signage).

Another project from the CRD is the Development Permit for the Anson Road Dock. We will have the first staff report at the September meeting after receiving the application in July, but we are also awaiting the application for a seawall that will need a Development Variance Permit as they are not permitted in any zone within our Land Use Bylaw.

A final reminder that we have been advertising for members of the Advisory Planning Committee to fill some vacancies. This committee is a valuable resource for the Local Trust Committee. The annual time commitment is not excessive but the depth and wealth of knowledge that has come out of their meetings in the past has been of great assistance to the Trustees. We strongly encourage anyone that has skills, passion or just a desire to contribute to consider applying.