

July 16, 2022

Dear Salt Spring Trustees

I am writing to express my opposition to Draft Bylaw 530.

Expanding the population potential of our island is bound to harm the flora and fauna that live here. Most construction projects require replacing trees and other plants with roofs. This results in more hard surfaces. These hard surfaces increase the speed with which water runs off the land, which in turn, decreases the water that can soak into our groundwater. This groundwater is needed to supply water to our streams during the summer. Less water in streams is harmful to wildlife that depends on these streams during the dryer months.

These effects are exacerbated by climate change which is predicted to bring more rain in fewer and stronger storms, lengthen our summer drought period and raise summer temperatures. These three factors together will reduce water for wild animals and plants, making it even more important minimize new structures. Our trees are also sequester carbon and to help mitigate climate change.

Increase construction also reduces wildlife corridors that are essential for heathy animal reproduction and the spread of native plants to new areas to adapt to climate change.

We have already lost so much. We cannot afford to lose more. Each individual project does not have a major effect. But taken together, the cumulative effects are substantial.

The Islands Trust was created to prevent over development and one reason was to protect the natural environment. Please consider this special responsibility that you have to our natural environment and reject Bylaw 530 in favour of a strategy that does not allow a much larger human population on our island and directs development away from natural areas.

Sincerely yours,

Nina Raginsky, OC

