

KEATS ISLAND **Tide Lines**

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 1



SUMMER 2004

Another Update for Eastbourne Water System

By Chuck Steemers, Engineering Technician, Infrastructure Services, SCRD

For those who may not already know, here is a brief recap of the Eastbourne water system. At the request of the Eastbourne Community, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) took ownership of the Eastbourne Community Water System in 2002. The SCRD proceeded with developing this system as a sustainable self-contained system that supplies presently 140 users with potable water. The system is a low flow system with limited storage and does not have fire-fighting capabilities. The water supply comes from 3 shallow wells. It is treated by filtration and disinfection and then distributed with small diameter piping. Residents supply their own water storage with the majority of users having 1,000-gallon tanks. During the summer months, water production from the wells often does not meet demand, flows are intermittent and users must rely on their tanks to tide them over.

Water Supply

Since the last report in November, the Eastbourne water system has seen some activity other than the general maintenance. The 10 homes/cabins supplied by the west well are connected to the main system and being supplied with treated water. The West well is now disconnected altogether and is only considered as a backup water source. In December of last year twenty-two low flow/meter assemblies were installed and it is planned to have the rest of them installed by the end of June/04.

Water Pressure

I discussed the low flow devices in my last article but please note that they are being installed to provide for a steady but slow replenishment of storage tanks; the flow is 0.5 gallons per minute. This is not enough pressure to use water directly off the line. For example, a shower requires a flow of two gallons per minute. To provide adequate pressure requires a storage tank located high enough to create pressure through gravity flow. Where that is not possible, or is inadequate, a pump and pressure tank are required. When gravity flow is sufficient to feed the pump, it may be installed between the tank and the house. When sufficient gravity flow can not be provided a submersible pump must be installed in the tank. You may want to consult an experienced plumber to choose the appropriate equipment for your situation.

Frost

The water custodian was kept busy this winter repairing leaks after a frost caused some damage to the water lines on the surface. This will be an ongoing problem until these lines are buried. The SCRD has scheduled this work, replacing the main lines on the road right of ways with 50mm lines over the next few years.

As a reminder, WDS Contracting is maintaining and operating the water system for the SCRD and if residents have



Meter and Low Flow Device Assembly

concerns about their water supply, they should contact them by telephone: Pager 604 740-9133.

Boil Water Advisory

Some good news for the water system. The water samples taken from this system have all been up to the health standards for potable water since the two systems (East and West) were connected and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority has lifted the boil water advisory for the Eastbourne Water System. It was officially lifted on March 25, 2004.

Projects for 2004

The projects the SCRD plans to carry out this year to continue the upgrading of the Eastbourne water system are:

- ◆ Complete installation of meters and low flow devices.
- ◆ Drill two deep wells, to be located on the East well lot and the Gordon well Lot.

May Long Week End

This is usually first week end of the year that people visit their cabins. A lot of storage tanks are being filled which puts a heavy demand on the system. It ran out of water for a short period of time. We request that storage tanks be filled earlier in the year to avoid this situation.

Cleaning Your Water Storage Tanks

The local health authority recommended the following protocol for cleaning and disinfecting private water storage tanks. Follow these guidelines, for cleaning an empty tank:

- ◆ Scrub the interior surfaces of the tank clean with a stiff brush and detergent, hose thoroughly with fresh water and drain.
- ◆ Spray the interior of the tank with a concentrated chlorine solution, 1 pint of 5% bleach per 25 gallons of water, hose thoroughly with fresh water and drain.
- ◆ Fill with water.

Residents can also add chlorine directly to their tanks in small doses to increase the chlorine residual and ensure bacteria will not grow in the tanks over the summer months. This is accomplished by adding 14 tablespoons of 5% bleach

in a 1000 gallon tank. Allow the water to stand 30 minutes before using.

If you require more information on the Eastbourne Water System or have any comments or concerns, contact the Sunshine Coast Regional District at 604 885-2261.

Email: info@scrd.bc.ca

A Note of Thanks

When the SCRD first took over the water system, Ted Romanovich, the water custodian at the time, continued on in assisting the SCRD with this transition for another year. Ted was very helpful in passing on his knowledge of the system and continuing operation of the system until a contractor could be hired to assume the position of water custodian. He also assisted the contractor for a short period but has now retired. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Ted for his dedication and assistance and wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

Eastbourne Community Association Update

By the ECA Executive

Another beautiful summer is shaping up on Keats Island. Eastbourne is as busy or busier than usual. Homes are being built or renovated, the water system is being upgraded, a new high speed internet line is crossing the island (although we understand there will not be a connection to Keats ...yet) and as always, brush is being cleared. Amidst all of this activity, the ECA continues to work to be your community association.

The Eastbourne Cottagers Association was formed many years ago to be a voice for the part-time residents of Eastbourne. The name was changed in the mid 90's to reflect that more and more people were residents, not just cottagers. That trend continues; the population is growing as more and more people realize that Keats Island is not only a wonderful place to visit but also a place to live. With a growing population the need for a community association increases and it is our hope that everyone will take an interest in the ECA.

Over the years the Eastbourne Community Association has acted as the voice of the community on many issues from ferry service to water rights to roads. Long-time residents will remember the fight over the potential of fish farms around Keats Island which was spearheaded by the ECA. Many projects on the island were funded by the ECA, such as stairs to beaches, wheelbarrows for the dock and the Notice Board. It has owned the "water lots" which was crucial in effecting the SCRD's takeover of the Eastbourne Water System, and it has administered funds for the fire and the water committees.

Those committees were the focus of much of the activity of the ECA for years.

The fire committee disbanded over the possibility of being held capriciously liable, and the water committee disbanded after it completed its job. For years, the water committee oversaw what was then a community/volunteer based water system and it virtually prepared the ground for the SCRD to take on Eastbourne's water management. The fire committee raised money, purchased and installed fire protection equipment and conducted regular fire and safety drills. It gave the community confidence to be able to respond to the threat of fire which now it has to a much lesser extent. Considering the forecast for hotter and dryer summers, this is a matter of great importance which will require the participation of the community.

ECA's membership is down. Yet ECA continues to be the best avenue for anyone to contribute to the community's future. Being a member enables you to have a voice in issues that will impact our community. Through the ECA you can initiate a project, be part of community planning, or of organizing events. For example, an event like the fishing derby, which is enjoyed by all every year!

Annual General Meeting, August 7th

Come to our AGM and you will find many of your neighbours discussing what is important to them in Eastbourne and the Island. You will learn that the ECA has about \$30,000 in assets and stands willing to assist community projects. You will learn about our contacts with various levels of government including the SCRD, Islands Trust and the Province. You will learn that we are lowering membership fees and planning for the future.

Its important to know that the ECA does not have legal authority over most of what affects life in Eastbourne or the island in general. We are a Society set up to represent the interests of residents, when the occasions for it arise. We do what the members agree to do.

Water

There are two articles on the status of the Eastbourne water system elsewhere in this issue. Suffice it to say then that the

Drilling Rig at Gordon Well. Photo: John Low



ECA has informal discussions with the SCR D on water when issues arise, and two members of the previous Eastbourne water committee, John Low and Rob Pitman serve on the SCR D water advisory committee.

All water in Eastbourne is now treated. A maintenance contract is in place and new wells are being drilled. We may soon have access to more water than ever, and with judicious tank storage on everyone's property there will be less likelihood of running out of water. The key word: Conservation!

Roads

Many concerns about the road to the dock have been raised. The roads are the responsibility of the Province's Ministry of Highways. The ECA contacted them in the fall and the spring regarding the road, and it has been fixed twice. Telus graded the road nicely after burying their pipes. We are looking for volunteers to spearhead a project to build a walkway down that road.

Docks and Ferry Service

We continue to have an Eastbourne liaison person with BC Ferries about service to the island, but the reality is that the users must express any concerns to Kona Winds or directly to BC Ferries.

We have been in touch with the SCR D, the operator of the islands wharfs over the deterioration of the Eastbourne dock and hope to have a report at the annual general meeting on SCR D's plan to refurbish the dock.

Fire Protection

We need an "angel" to attend to this issue. We have some equipment in the fire shed near the dock and various other pieces of equipment in storage around Eastbourne. But there is no training or organized maintenance of this equipment.

A renewed fire committee would not be responsible for fighting fires, but would keep the equipment functioning and assist in training the community to respond appropriately to a fire. Volunteers? Let us know. Everyone's property depends on some level of protection should the worst happen.

Projects

The ECA welcomes any ideas that could and would benefit the community. We have project funding available for individuals and groups who are members of the ECA. Last year *nobody* applied. There *are* improvements to Eastbourne you would like to see. If you can take them on either by organizing them or actually applying your skills please apply. See the Notice Board for application forms.

ECA Directors

We need more directors as we lost our vice president who moved from the island and everyone is very busy. Please consider working on the ECA. We will all benefit from more members who are willing and able to contribute their individual abilities.

There other issues to discuss. There is now a volunteer to maintain the Keats Island web site which we will report on later. Glen Young will retire from looking after advertising and mailing for Tide Lines after this issue and Reinhard is looking for someone to take it on. Enjoy your summer, fish, bbq, swim, boat and COME to the AGM on August 7th.

Eastbourne Water Advisory Committee Update

By John H. Low

The Eastbourne Water Advisory Committee, "EWAC," is comprised of five members: Steve Lee, chair, and Chuck Steemers, technician from Sunshine Coast Regional District; Scott Benson, water custodian, from WDS Contracting; John Low and Rob Pitman from the Eastbourne Community Association.

The purpose of this committee is to provide liaison between our community, the custodian and SCR D. The Committee has met by way of teleconference over the past year on a monthly basis. Chuck Steemers has provided an update on this year's achievements and work in progress in this issue. My comments therefore focus on non-SCR D issues.

The water system distribution lines have not been scoured out, although they have been "chlorine shocked" to remove any bacteria. The lines were then flushed to remove the excess chlorine.

Prior to the SCR D taking over the system, our water was not filtered and as a consequence, a certain amount of undesirable residue had accumulated in the distribution lines and community storage tanks over the years. This undesirable residue has found its way into our own storage tanks. While the system is currently filtered and regularly checked for chlorine retention, SCR D's responsibility to supply potable water ends at the property boundaries. From there it is each user's responsibility to clean and maintain their own storage tanks.

I could not believe how dirty our tank was when I cleaned it out this spring. What is the condition of your tank? For those who don't know exactly what to do, or are unable to do their own maintenance, there are services to clean and refill tanks posted on the Eastbourne bulletin board. The time to clean and refill tanks is prior to the dry season which is virtually now upon us.

We are of the opinion that the Gordon Road/Oak Avenue hairpin corner presents a hazard due to loose gravel on the roadway, now that there is a steep drop off to the new Gordon Well pump house. We are working with the highways department to have a rock barrier installed.

If you have questions or concerns about the water system please call me or another member of the committee. John Low: 604 921-7829. Email: jandjlow@telus.net

In case of an emergency call the WDS Contracting pager number 604 740-9133. **Note:** this number is reserved for emergencies only.

Have a safe and happy summer and remember that it is very important to **conserve water.**"

Water System Open House

An Open House on the "Water Lots" is planned and will likely be on the same day as the ECA's Annual General Meeting, August 7th. Come and inspect Eastbourne's water system. Watch the Notice Board for confirmation.

Eastbourne Kid's Fishing Derby

By Al Borthwick, Fish Master

It's that time of the year again!
The Eastbourne Kids Fishing Derby.

Date: August 1, 2004 Time: 3:00PM to 4:00PM.

Age: Between 0 and 16 years old.

This is one of the best annual events. So, mark it on your calendar. Prizes, hot dogs and drinks for all participants.

Please contact Fish Master Al at 604 879-0971 or aborthwick@shaw.ca to register or contribute.

Straight lines!



Photo: supplied by the author

Highspeed Internet to Keats?

By Reinhard Derreth

The crews descended upon both sides of the island, dug enormous holes, buried pipes right down into the sea, covered them up nicely and vanished. I was told by someone that a notice had been posted on the bulletin board, explaining what was happening and giving a number to call "for more information." By the time I looked for it, it too had vanished. I tried to chase the matter down through the maze of automated voices. The real person I finally got to talk to knew about it, sort of, and was sure to get back to me in a couple of days with all the information. He did not. If anyone really knows whether this means that a hitherto unavailable service is coming to Keats Island and when, please post it on the board.

Photos: John Low



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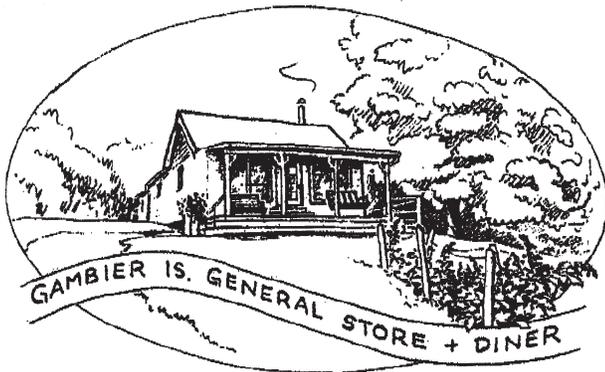
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Gibsons Harbour Ferry

By Joan Pedersen

Don Scagel is now operating a taxi/ferry/harbour tour service between Gibsons and Keats Island.

Don is no stranger to the island or the water taxi business. The Scagel family has had a summer home at Eastbourne since 1948. Don grew up spending his summers at Keats and on the water. He started his first water taxi service as a teenager transporting the "Mums" into Gibsons for groceries and the "Dads" to and from work from Langdale to Keats and Mount Gardiner.



Photo supplied by the author

The "Prospector" and "Crystall" look a little like Granville Island ferries, clean, cute and compact. They are stationed at the Gibsons Government Wharf and are available on call seven days a week from sun-up to sun-down. It adds a little uniqueness to our island.

Melody Point Community

By Tom Fox

Although many of us have lost a few of our favourite outdoor plants during the winter's severe cold snap and some docks and floats got damaged, most Melody Point cabins are now "open for the season" and residents are renewing friendships and enjoying summertime activities.

As a cabin owner on Keats you sometimes have to say no to family members or friends who want to come over for a few days because you can not accommodate them. If they are looking for that cabin/nature experience, you may wish to refer them to the Land Conservancy of British Columbia, an organization "dedicated to the protection of our natural and cultural heritage" through obtaining covenants for special B.C. properties, or by outright purchase. These properties vary from coastal island sites to ranches and wildlife corridors. Many of the sites offer "working holidays" for guests who are willing to devote part of their day to on-site projects. Sounds familiar? Most of our visitors volunteer in the same way on our "site", and probably yours do too.

If you would like more information about The Land Conservancy opportunities call their Eagles House office in Burnaby Historical Village, 604 733-2313.

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Keats Camps Capital Expansion Project Update

By Ashleigh Young

Over the past couple of months, construction on the new kitchen and dining hall has progressed at a rapid rate! The majority of the exterior work is complete, and the installation of kitchen components and appliances has begun. The dining hall, which includes a new assembly room, is anticipated to be finished this July. Additional housing has also been added for our staff and members of our leadership training program. Construction on the new camper cabins will begin once our fundraising is complete and we have raised the remaining \$300,000 towards our \$2.5 million goal.

This has been a very memorable time in Keats Camps' history, and a wonderful opportunity to include others in our ministry. Keats Camps has impacted the lives of countless children and families over the years, and we want to ensure that more people get the chance to experience a week at camp.

We extend the invitation to everyone to come and visit us this summer and see the new changes at Keats Camp. As well, you can find photos of the entire construction project on our website. keatscamps.com



Photo supplied by the author

We will be holding a dedication service for the new building on Sunday July 25th at the camp. The ceremony will be held in conjunction with our Sunday morning church service. All are welcome. The ceremony will be followed by a buffet lunch and tours of the camp and the building. Please rsvp to the Keats Camps office 604 980-6799 if you plan to attend.

Snapshots of Baranabas

By Laura Nelson

Here at Barnabas life continues to be full of activity. We had some great conferences this spring. Our Preparing for Marriage Conference was the biggest one ever and what a delight it was to see them learning skills that will help them in their relationship. We also had two Pastor's Conferences and two Marriage Refreshment Conferences that were well attended and offered valuable insight for the couples as well as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. It is very rewarding

to have these groups here; getting to know them and seeing them grow in their relationships.



Our director, Rob Bentall, has always wanted to water ski on his birthday which was May 1st. The ski boat would not start for it. Undaunted, he ended up skiing behind our aluminum work boat. With determination and the help of a dry suit his goal of skiing on his birthday was fulfilled.



We want to be good stewards of our property which includes having it look as nice as possible. So, this spring a project to tier and seed part of the bank at the top of our pier was undertaken. An excavator, a dump truck, dirt and volunteers accomplished it and it is beginning to green up. Someone commented that mowing it could be classified as "extreme mowing" but it will be a nice welcome for our guests.

Photos supplied by the author



Time Out on Keats

By Reinhard Derreth

Before we had a place on the island we had been at someone's cottage on the west side for a weekend. We loved the walk to Salmon Rock and spend whole afternoons there, jumping off the rocks into the sea, and getting all scraped up from the barnacles getting out. But that is many years ago, and little did we know that one day we would see a lot for sale on the very other side of the island that put a spell on us. It takes a spell to convince you that endless toting and toil is what you really want. But in-between being absorbed with building, battling with all the green and sitting on the deck enjoying our place, we take time out visit the other corners of the island.

"Getting there is half the fun" depends on one's enjoyment of up and down footpaths over rocks and roots that the old-timers cut and which still serve us today. The forest sights are richly rewarding. Here and there among the second growth stands the odd big evergreen that the early loggers ignored for bigger stuff. Some monumental stumps testify to it. It is the vigor with which the forest has re-established itself in its many, and sometimes bizarre forms, that is amazing to see. Most impressive are the majestic giant maples many of which approach the end of their life span and which will not be replaced by up and coming maples. When the old ones took hold there could not have been deer on the island to eat them. Someone with real knowledge should write about the forest on Keats in *Tide Lines*.

Others will know the island much better and know how to get to secret places. We have only visited the beaches and lookouts that anyone can access on fairly well known trails. There are trail maps in circulation that do not indicate whether a trail, or section of it, is through private or public land and the trails themselves are not necessarily identified as being one or the other. Most of them are on private land. One wants to be appreciative of the owners' hospitality and respectful of the environment.

With accelerating development of the island, continued access through private land to the most beautiful foreshore spots is tenuous. Public access becomes a negotiable commodity in the quest for a land development permit, as access to Salmon Rock has become negotiable in the subdivision plan for land owned by the Baptist Convention.

Almost all of Keats Island is privately owned. Therefore the public will continue to depend on the one hand on the generosity of the owners to allow the use of the trails, and on the other hand on the government agencies for Keats Island to negotiate with a vision of the need for public amenities, when the opportunity for such negotiations arise.

The preference to date has been to settle for ecological reserves which are exempt from any obligation to provide public access. Those who like to walk the woods and shores of Keats Island would like to keep its present amenities and to see them expanded in the future. To that effect it is essential that all who share that interest participate in the processes that determine the recreational opportunities on Keats Island.



1 Salmon Rock



3 Plumper Cove

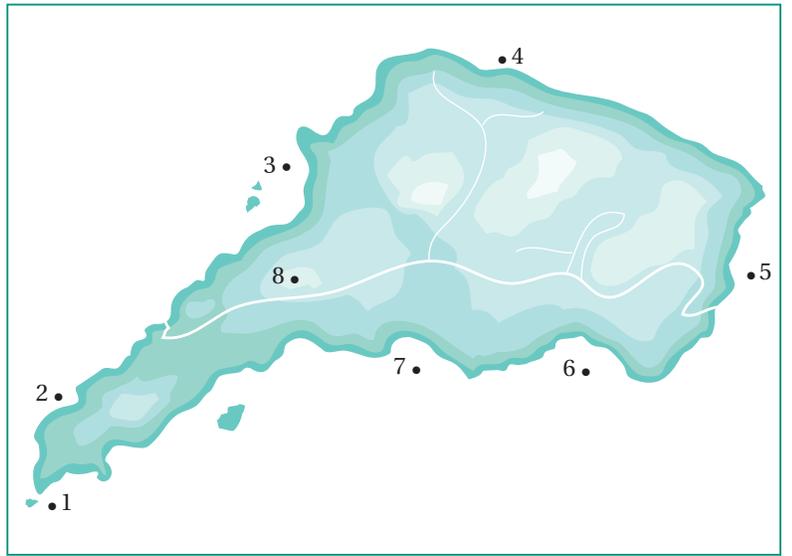


6 West Beach / Andy's Beach





2 Sandy Beach



4 Melody Point / Barnabas



5 Wreck Beach / East Beach



7 Pebble Beach



8 Stony Peak Lookout

Photos: Reinhard Derreth

Islands Trustee Report

By Kim Benson, Gambier Island Local Trustee

For those of you who may be new to Keats Island and not familiar with the Islands Trust, the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) is the 3-member elected local government responsible for land use and community planning on Gambier, Keats, Anvil, Bowyer, Passage, Pasley, Trail and Thormanby Islands. The other elected Local Trustee is Bob Gibson from Gambier Island. The appointed Chair of the Gambier Island LTC for the 2002–2005 term is Wayne Wright, a North Pender Island Local Trustee who is also an elected Vice-Chairperson on the Islands Trust Council Executive Committee.

Before I became a member of the Gambier Island LTC in 1993, no one from Keats Island had ever been elected to the Islands Trust. The two Local Islands Trustees had always been from Gambier, the meetings were always held on Gambier, and Keats Islanders didn't have much access to information about the Islands Trust. With the exception of the original Keats Island Official Community Plan process in the late 1970's and one public hearing in 1987, no island-wide public meeting was held on Keats and there was little island-wide communication. This situation has improved much over the last ten years due to the efforts of many Keats Islanders, working cooperatively with the Islands Trust and with each other.

Thanks to the generous work of volunteers, *Keats Island Tide Lines* has been published and mailed to Keats Island property owners twice a year since 1994. There has been an Islands Trustee update in every issue. At least one Islands Trust public information meeting has been held for Keats Islanders every year for ten years now. A Keats-wide public meeting is being planned this summer on Saturday, July 24th. Please see the Islands Trust sponsored meeting announcement on Pages 23 and 24 of this issue.

Also, in 1994, the Gambier Island LTC created and appointed a Keats Island Advisory Planning Group, APG. This committee of volunteers is instrumental in the communication between Islands Trust and the islanders. Current Keats APG members are: Neil Turkington, Eastbourne Community Association; Graeme Davies, Keats Leaseholders; Rev. Ian Grant, Baptist Convention; Rob Bentall, Summer Camps; Tom Fox, Melody Point; and Sarah Roberts, 10-Acres. There is a vacancy for one APG member from Plumper Cove, and another vacancy for a second member from Eastbourne. If you're interested in being appointed for a two-year term, please contact Islands Trust, Senior Planner Felicity Adams: fadams@islandstrust.bc.ca

I'm a believer in having island-wide communication, consultation, and public participation regarding any land use, access and service issue that may affect Keats Island. To that effect I have been an advocate for building communication and consultation links with other government agencies, e.g. Sunshine Coast Regional District, Ministry of Transportation, BC Ferries and others. It has been a personal priority for me to work with people from all parts of Keats Island to foster an island-wide spirit of cooperation and consultation.

Many Keats Islanders have participated in the public processes over the years and I very much appreciate and respect their participation in all their diversity.

Trying to communicate and consult with all Keats Islanders has always presented special challenges. About 90% of the islanders are part-time residents. There are only two notice boards, one at Eastbourne wharf and one at Keats Landing wharf. There is no on-island mail delivery and no regular newspaper, and as good as it is, *Tide Lines* is published only twice a year. For the Islands Trust to do a mailing to all Keats residents and property owners is very expensive and therefore is not frequently resorted to.

At the beginning of this term, in November 2002, I began to develop my own informal "Keats Contacts" email list. It started out with members of the Keats APG plus a few other community group contacts. I use this list to forward Islands Trust-related information, links, and updates. I have another list for Gambier, and have recently begun one for Passage Island. My "Keats Contacts" list has been growing. I encourage people on the lists to share information with others.

If you would like to be added to this list, just send an email to my personal home email address. I look forward to hearing from you and I hope to see many of you at the July 24th meeting, or on the island, or the StormAway.

Islands Trust Contacts

KIM BENSON, Gambier Island Local Trustee
Keats Island resident

Email (home): kimb_keats@telus.net

Email (Islands Trust): kbenson@islandstrust.bc.ca

Telephone (home): 604-886-9868

Mail (home): P.O. Box 1300 Gibsons V0N 1V0.

BOB GIBSON, Gambier Island Local Trustee,
Gambier Island resident

Email: rgibson@dccnet.com Telephone. 604 885-4330

WAYNE WRIGHT, North Pender Island Local Trustee,
Gambier LTC Chair, Islands Trust Council Vice-Chair

Email: wwright@islandstrust.bc.ca Telephone. 250 629-2004

FELICITY ADAMS, Senior Planner

Email: fadams@islandstrust.bc.ca Telephone. 250 247-2203

DAVID MARLOR, Regional Planning Manager

Email: dmarlor@islandstrust.bc.ca Telephone 250 405-5169

PETER PHILLIPS, Bylaw Investigations

Email: pphillips@islandstrust.bc.ca Telephone. 250 247-2208

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Life at the Farm

By Maureen Phillips

Recently overheard on a Sunday afternoon Stormaway leaving Eastbourne: "I didn't know there were wild donkeys on Keats." Well, there are donkeys on Keats, but they're definitely not wild. They live at the llama farm, and the only time they're a bit wild is when they decide to herd the llamas. On weekends, we let them out of the pasture to wander freely around the farm. They usually stay home, but they're not hip to the language of property lines and boundaries, so you may find them marching up the road or munching on your grass, hopefully not your rhodos!



Photo supplied by the author

Charlie, now seven years old, and Dixie, four, came to Keats Island from Blackie, Alberta in the summer of 2002. They were brought by the Hall family, who phoned to say they had made it all the way from Blackie to the Gibsons dock. We raced over in our boat from Keats to greet them and, amongst great fanfare, two adorable miniature Mediterranean donkeys slowly and reluctantly stepped down from their horse trailer. Charlie and Dixie have been a huge source of entertainment at the farm ever since, not to mention inspiration for a local songwriter. Charlie is trained to pull a donkey cart, which we put into use depending on (a) the weather, and (b) Charlie's mood. We had at one time hoped to train the llamas for carting, but you need only glance at a llama to realize it isn't going to allow you to harness it to a cart, much less agree to pull you around in it.

Donkeys are intelligent animals and respond to patient, gentle treatment. They're very devoted and so sensitive that if they lose their mate, they can actually die of depression. While they're easy to maintain, donkeys need the basics of food, water, and shelter. Grooming is important too, especially while they're shedding their shaggy winter coats for a smoother summer look. Keeping their hooves in good shape is critical and involves monthly visits from the farrier. The following is an excerpt taken from a donkey website: "Donkeys

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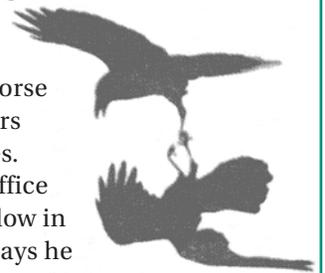
can be used just like horses under saddle and in harness, although donkeys are more laid back and self-preserving in nature. They prefer to do what is good for the donkey, which is not always what the human thinks is best. They are very friendly, and their nature makes them excellent for children. Donkeys can perform all the gaits horses or mules do, but galloping is usually not on the program unless dinner is being served. Donkeys can also make wonderful guard animals—a donkey gelding or jennet will take care of an entire herd of cattle, sheep or goats—the natural aversion to predators will inspire the donkey to severely discourage any canine attacks on the herd. Dogs and donkeys usually don't mix, although they can be trained to leave the house or farm dog alone!"

Our biggest challenge with Charlie and Dixie has been to keep them home on weekends when we let them out of their enclosure. We sometimes worry about them being on the road, but drivers on Keats usually travel at a speed that allows them to avoid hitting kids, dogs, donkeys or deer.

So, if you happen to come across Charlie and Dixie while you're out for a hike, just call them by name and approach them quietly. They enjoy being stroked on the neck and back (avoid standing right behind them, as you would a horse), and if you have a carrot or piece of apple in your bag, all the better. They love people and are very trusting. If, on the other hand, you ever see them trying to board the Stormaway, please stomp your feet and shoo them home.

More Raven Stories

By Doreen Derreth



A friend visited us from Whitehorse and we talked about last years severely cold winter temperatures. He works on the 8th floor of an office building and gazing out the window in the middle of one of those cold days he noticed that the streetlights were coming on here and there. Then he observed that on each of those lights a raven was sitting. They had discovered that when say sat on the light and spread their wings in a certain way the lights would come on and they would be warm. They fooled the light sensors with the shadows of their wings.

There are not many days when the ravens are not around us above West Beach. They talk to each other with many sounds and they don't sit still much. When they fly full tilt their wings make a loud swooshing sound, loud enough to alert any prey. But they also can be silent and fly *without* a sound; only by their passing shadow does one know that they are there. That is how they maneuver when they watch for the Robins to give away the location of their nests. We were standing at our pond observing a raven sitting low in the trees across from us, and he was in turn observing us. While we wondered what we prevented him from going after, he ignored us and swooped into a cedar clump only feet away and in a second flew away with a young robin. We did not even know that there was a nest.

PUBLIC MEETING ON KEATS ISLAND, SATURDAY JULY 24, 2004

SESSION 1: 11:00AM–1:00PM. AT EASTBOURNE, ESPLANADE, OPPOSITE MAPLE BEACH STAIRS

SESSION 2: 1:30PM–3:30PM. AT KEATS CAMP, PLATFORM TENT, WEST OF BUILDINGS.

This Public Information Meeting will be combined with a Regular Business Meeting of the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee. Items of LTC business will form part of the day's agenda. Notices and Draft Agendas will be posted on Keats Island Notice Boards at least ten days prior to the meeting.

The adopted Keats Island Official Community Plan (Bylaw No. 77) and Keats Island Land Use Bylaw (No. 78) can be viewed and downloaded from the Islands Trust web site.

SESSION 1

USE OF TRAILERS AND SAW MILLING

During this portion of the meeting, the Gambier LTC will be reviewing a Staff Report and Draft Bylaw which propose to amend the Keats Island Land Use Bylaw (LUB) to clarify some issues related to how the LUB is interpreted and enforced. The public is invited to attend the meeting to gain information, ask questions and comment to the Trustees, the Islands Planning Trust Staff, and the Islands Trust Bylaw Investigations Officer.

The sections of the bylaw that have been identified as requiring clarification have to do with:

1. The use of travel trailers as temporary residences, dwellings, or sleeping cabins in Eastbourne;
2. The threshold to determine when saw milling on lots zoned for residential use is considered an acceptable temporary use or Home Occupation, and when it goes beyond that to become a more permanent and ongoing Commercial or Industrial use of land which may require a rezoning to a Light Industrial use category;
3. The staff report and draft bylaws may also address some other minor "housekeeping amendments" designed to make the Keats Island Land Use Bylaw easier to interpret, to understand, and to enforce as intended.

Any changes to the Keats Island Land Use Bylaw will require a formal bylaw amendment process, including a Public Hearing. Draft bylaws, proposed bylaws, meeting schedules, and relevant Staff reports and studies are published on the Islands Trust web site

SESSION 2

LOT 696 (KEATS CAMP) SUBDIVISION UPDATE

During this portion of the meeting, the Gambier LTC will be reviewing a Staff Report, a revised plan of subdivision, and possibly Draft Bylaws which propose to amend the Land Use Contract and Land Use Bylaw regulations specific to District Lot 696 (the Keats Camp property).

The public is invited to attend this part of the meeting to gain information and to comment to the Trustees and Islands Trust Staff regarding the rezoning application, the revised subdivision application and the revised Development Variance Permit (DVP) application for D.L. 696. The agent for the

owners of D.L. 696, Bill Sievwright of Land Plan Group Inc will be present at the meeting to answer questions about the revised plan of subdivision, rezoning proposal, and Development Variation permit application.

The Convention of Baptist Churches, Keats Camps, and the leasehold cottagers on the 95 hectare (238 acre) District Lot 696 (the Keats Camp property) have put forward a revised subdivision proposal to:

1. Create from D.L. 696: 3 fee simple lots for the Camp; 1 strata lot for Camp use (at Campfire Rock); 110 residential strata cottage lots plus common property accesses and common property septic disposal areas for the residential strata cottage lots;
2. Dedicate the existing driveable road right of way from the barge ramp/Keats Landing public wharf site through the Camp property eastward to "lands beyond";
3. Dedicate 3.3 hectares (8.25 acres) of land for a publicly owned nature reserve at Sandy Beach accessible by a dedicated pedestrian trail right of way through the Keats Camp property from Keats Landing. The land and trail would be held in perpetuity for conservation and public access by the Islands Trust Fund (as an agent of the Crown). Some additional issues regarding future parkland dedication to the Sunshine Coast Regional District have not yet been finalized;
4. Protect 21 hectares (52.5 acres) out to and including Salmon Rock as a Conservation Area with some public pedestrian access on private land (protected by conservation covenant held by the Islands Trust Fund Board), and set aside an area of private land on the south side at Beachcomber Point as a possible future Camp expansion or relocation area;
5. Vary the structure setbacks and lot coverage for some of the existing cottages, as well as setbacks for some of the existing private docks and floats in the water area in front of some cottages by way of a Development Variance Permit and a rezoning application.

For further details regarding processes and time lines for the revised Land Use Contract amendment, Land Use Bylaw amendment, and Development Variance Permit for the proposed subdivision, please contact Islands Trust Senior Planner, Felicity Adams. fadams@islandstrust.bc.ca

For further details regarding the revised subdivision plan, rezoning, and development Variance Plan proposal, please contact the agent for the applicant, Bill Sievwright of Land Plan Group Inc. info@land-plan-group.com

Any changes to the Keats Island Land Use Bylaw or the Land Use Contract specific to D.L. 696 will require a formal bylaw amendment process, including a Public Hearing. Draft bylaws, proposed bylaws, meeting schedules, Staff reports and studies are published on the Islands Trust web site.

Black Bear! **Let's hope he's gone**

By Eric Harding

So May 10th found me sitting on the lawn working on some fish net for a deer fence we're putting up at our new garden/orchard. Our cat, Amber Longshanks, was being a total pest-getting caught in the net and all-for what is a net but thousands of feet of string, right? All of a sudden I realized that Amber wasn't there any more. I casually glanced around and couldn't see her. Hearing a noise behind me and turning around, I was rather surprised, to say the least, to see a black bear within fifteen feet of me! Smart cat!



Talking to the bear in a casual conversational tone, I slowly rose to my feet and went into the house. To get my camera, of course. Coming back out, I walked out to the corner of the deck and proceeded to take several photos as the bear nosed around and eventually licked up a patch of seed fallen to the ground from two of our bird feeders. After a few minutes it seemed to get a little fed up with my curiosity and ambled off, up the hill towards our garden. Over the course of the afternoon, it visited the house several times more.

The next morning it was back. That's when we came to the conclusion that black bears and bird feeders are not a good mix—if you like your bird feeders! One of ours is now in three pieces. There was a loud thump on the deck while I was inside. I rushed to the upstairs window, camera in hand, to find the bear up on our railing, half-climbing our flag pole to get at the bird feeders.

Running downstairs I chased it off the deck and up behind the house. Crack! Bang! I later found our finch feeder in three pieces. I decided then and there to take down our other feeders and to clean up all the birdseed lying on the ground. The last I saw of the bear was that evening, the 11th, when it was back up on our deck; about five feet from me, on the other side of the window, as it found the jar of pickled herring I had forgotten out on the deck table. We thought, at one point, that we could identify this bear as likely being a female,



a sow, from a most unmale-like pose it held for 20 seconds. If there had not been solid evidence of its concluded business it could have been labeled as female, alas there was; so we continue to refer to this bear by the gender-neutral "it".

We have only seen it for three days, or so, at our place, but we know that the bear has been on the island for a couple weeks. We assume it will make it's way off the island in the next few weeks.

In the meantime we prefer to see this end of "it"

Photos supplied by the author



Look Ma, No Wharf

By Reinhard Derreth

Looking up from my reading aboard the big Mercury on the way to Keats, I was startled to see that we were headed straight for the shore of Hutt Island. For a moment I thought that the skipper had lost it, until he slowed down and I saw two men on the slopes, bags in their hands, who obviously needed to get off that island. Intrepid Mercury expertly inched to the shore, but it took more than one try. Eventually the fellows managed to make their way to a rock ledge high enough to scramble over the bow on board, while the skipper held the boat real steady. When they came on board they were wide eyed, but after they settled down they declared that “there was nothing to it.”

Really? The skipper of Sewells sightseeing boat obviously did not think so. He had stopped dead in his tracks and moved in close, just in case he might be needed.

Photo: Reinhard Derreth



Memories of Keats

By Harold Wolverton

Most of you were not around in 1932, which is as far as I am taking you back with my memories of Keats. But you may know some of the people I mention, or recognize familiar names.

At that time there was a junction of roads at the top of the bluff above Keats Landing and from there a walkway led down to the waterfront. Floats and a ramp made up the docking facilities. The floats were arranged in finger fashion to accommodate all the rowboats, for the most part engines had not yet replaced the oar. On lovely summer days you were likely to meet up with other cottagers there and everybody knew everybody.

You might see Mr. Bolten and Mr. Keen talking to our venerable camp caretaker Bill Read, or the Selmans discussing camp matters with Alf Glenesk, Charlie Aebig, Mrs. McLean and Mrs Phillips. Along the path from Sandy Beach you might

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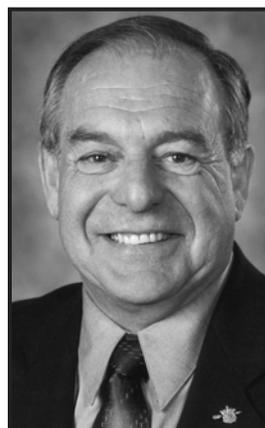
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encounter the Grants, the Bulgins, the Peggs and the Coopers from their cottage down a rocky prominence.

At that time the Assembly Hall was taking shape on the brow of the hill and you would see Rev. A.C. Bingham, Mr Carmichael, Doug Murfitt, Dr. Telford, Rev. Ward, Miss Boyer and Mrs. Gough discussing the progress. Mrs. Gough was a favourite at any gathering, she was colourful and always told of her early morning swims in the “briny deep.”

Then there were the young offspring, boys and girls. Then as now, the boys were interested in impressing the girls. Once Clark Bentall demonstrated his prowess by walking the dock rail 50 feet above the muddy beach.

I was a youth then and of the people I mentioned and the ones I didn't, Mr. Reid, the caretaker had to be specially respected. He could make the wheels turn, or not, and he was a mechanic of distinction. He had one of the early outboard engines for running to and from Gibsons. It had a handle on top of the exposed fly wheel to get it started and only he knew how to do it.

But the pièce de résistance was the mechanical buck saw. Mr. Reid and family were permanent residents on Keats which meant that a steady supply of wood was needed for the stove and fireplace. The development of an engine driven saw blade was therefore imperative. The drive was an ancient concoction and the gasoline engine was vintage even for that time. It had one huge cylinder to which clung a calamity called the carburetor, entangled in wire to keep it working. There was a monstrous fly wheel with a starting handle much like the one on the outboard and all of it was mounted on a cast iron base. Superimposed over the juggernaut was a cast iron water reservoir to keep the whole thing from getting red hot. All of it was for the purpose of driving a blade with wicked teeth back and forth over a log, like a two man buck saw.

As far as anyone knew the machine was unique, one of a kind, reputed to be a major labour saving device. We were allowed to look at it but not to touch it, leave alone tinker with it. I never saw it work, I just heard it once or twice way off in the woods. The racket it made must have scattered the squirrels, chipmunks and birds to the four winds.

Sometimes, when someone casually fires up a chain saw, I think about those days, about Mr. Reid and his machine. Times have changed.

Gilean Douglas

By Edna-May Slade

A few years ago someone, I think from Melody Point, found an old newspaper with an article about Keats Island written by Gilean Douglas. She was living in our cottage for the winter, after hers in the Cocohalla valley had burned down.

Gilean Douglas was born in Toronto, the only child of a Judge. Her mother died when she was young and she worshiped her father. Each morning she would put a rose in his lapel as he went off to court.

After university she wrote for a newspaper in New York and then started her career as a novelist. She wrote originally under the name Grant Madison, as women in 1963 were not supposed to write as she did, to quote a line "...but she killed him off." Many would be upset with that.

She had interesting married lives. First she married a German engineer who disappeared, so she married another fellow. Then the engineer turned up and both marriages were off. A while later, after we got to know her, she married an army major and made *him* change his name to Douglas. That didn't last long either.

She was an ecologist and tree hugger and became more and more eccentric as she aged. When she left Keats Island she bought three acres on Cortez Island. We would visit her there when we sailed up to Desolation Sound. She died on Cortez Island on October 31, 1993 at the age of 94. She left her money and writings to the English Department at UBC. She had a literary executor who could be reached through UBC.

Several years before and right up to her death, she was writing a book about her time at Keats. The titles of her books are : River for my Sidewalk, Kodachromes at Midday, Prodigal, The Protected and Place and Silence is my Homeland.

Keats Island Website

keats-island.ca

Keats Island has a well functioning website, thanks to **Ian Price** who has put it together, keeps it up to date and keeps expanding it. You can find information on upcoming events, community affairs, weather, tides, ferry schedules and much more. To contact Ian via email: iprice@keats-island.ca

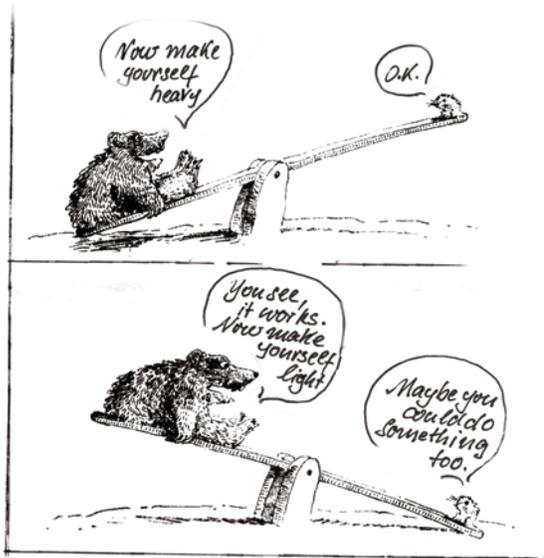
Smiles

Gleaned by Doreen Derreth

It's easy to get good players. Gettin em to play together, that's the hard part. *Casey Stengel*

I always wanted to be somebody, but I should have been more specific. *Lily Tomlin*

Just remember that you are absolutely unique, just like everybody else.



Editorial

Thank You Glen Young

Glen took on *Tide Lines* from Dawn-Ray McLaren, who had started it in the early 90s. He expanded the number of pages, advertising and the variety of content, and he did it by himself which means hounding the contributors and advertisers to get their articles and ads in on time, format the pages, contract the printer, assemble the mailing list, stuff the envelopes, get it to the Post, collect the ad money and pay the bills. Much of it was a learning process with computers that were not as slick and helpful as they can be today. Now Glen wants to go on to other things and *Tide Lines* thanks him for his generous contribution to the Keats Island Community. Give him a call why don't you.

Letters to the Editor

As a new category *Tide Lines* welcomes "letters to the editor" which express appreciation or concern with regard to Keats Island affairs. While *Tide Lines* does not express an editorial point of view, it could contribute to the understanding of issues by publishing objective, constructive submissions, or generically report on issues brought to its attention. *Tide Lines* reserves the right to its discretion to publish or not publish a "letter to the editor" and includes such letters under its publication policy printed below.

Articles for Publication

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed articles to this issue. The next issue is targeted for November and *Tide Lines* again invites submissions for publication from all over the island, in fact begs for them. There is no end of subjects.

Reinhard Derreth, editor

Policy

Keats Island Tide Lines is published twice a year as a source of information on island issues and events, and as literary contribution to island life. Its production is financed by paid advertisements. It is distributed free of charge to every property owner of Keats Island, the government agencies responsible for the island and the advertisers.

The contributions to content are voluntary and the information and opinions presented are those of the contributors. The Editor, or anyone else involved in the production of the newsletter, do not assume responsibility for opinions expressed, for the accuracy of the information provided, or for errors incurred in production.

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Reinhard Derreth, Editor and Graphics
Telephone/Fax: 604 926-8765. Email: derreth@istar.ca
Mailing address: 4820 Keith Road, West Vancouver V7W 2N1
Glen Young, Advertising and Mailing
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