

DIRA Annual Chair Report for 2012-13

Shortly after the 2012 AGM the new Executive did something different, attempting to set goals that we would like to accomplish during the coming year. To my knowledge this had not been done before but we thought it would be a useful way to help focus our actions as an executive. I freely admit that we did not accomplish everything we set out to do, but I believe we made good progress in some areas and a start in others. I would like to summarize what we have done for you. This report will go through each goal explaining what has been accomplished to this point.

Goal #1:

Ensure that DIRA is on a reasonable financial footing by.

Working towards an agreement with the CVRD to give DIRA a secure financial position

The executive has spent numerous hours reviewing draft service agreement documents from the CVRD. We are attempting to get an agreement that will satisfy the majority of the residents on Denman Island. As soon as the Executive has an agreement that they feel is presentable to the membership we will invite your comments and then finally your approval.

Reducing the high cost of DIRA's insurance through a policy shared with other groups on Denman

Recognizing that there are many organizations on Denman that pay a good deal of money for various insurance requirements DIRA along with Denman WORKS! attempted to find an underwriter that would be willing to carry some type of shared insurance for Denman Island organizations. To this end we gathered information and had a meeting with an agent last summer. The results were not what we hoped for and therefore the initiative was dropped.

Goal #2:

Enhance communication with Denman Island residents by.

Upgrading the DIRA website by adding more interactive features

The upgrade to the DIRA website has been completed and the result is a more inclusive site with features to make it a more effective communication tool. There is space for all DIRA committees to add information and pictures if they wish. There are also links to many other organizations that islanders may want to access. As well, there is a contact us box that anyone can use to reach the Executive about any matter they feel is important.

Enhancing the big tree sign board to better publicize island events

We have not done anything in this regard. The executive will need to decide if it wishes to pursue this aspect in the coming year.

Structuring the general meetings to encourage members to bring forward topics for discussion.

To facilitate this point the Executive decided to change the order of business at the general meetings. This was done by moving committee reports to the last item on the agenda and moving

new business where members can bring up matters of concern to an earlier portion of the meeting. We would still like to encourage members to bring up any issues they feel are important at DIRA general meetings as that is one of the meetings primary purposes, to hear concerns of islanders.

Goal #3:

Support and assist all our committees to carry out their mandates by.

Promoting the work of DIRA committees to DIRA members and the general public

Our upgraded website provides a page to each DIRA committee where they can post reports on committee activities as well as any pictures of events or tasks that the committee has worked on and may still be working on.

Assisting DIRA committees with grant applications and other fundraising efforts

The Graham Lake Swim Dock Committee once again received a recreation grant to help cover their insurance costs. As well a letter of support was written for the Old School Committee when they applied for grant funding to replace the roof. Unfortunately that grant was not successful.

Encouraging and helping committees to report frequently on their work to the DIRA membership and all Island residents

Several committees are very good about reporting regularly at DIRA General Meetings. At the same time we have several committees that do not report as often as they should. The Executive will continue to explore ways of making this communication more effective and regular in the future.

Communicating effectively with other groups on Denman, eg. Denman Works!, Fire Department, Seniors, Community School, etc.

DIRA is fortunate that Denman WORKS! and the Fire Department come to our General Meetings and report regularly. We can discuss issues with both these organizations whenever the need arises. However, with the other groups mentioned in the statement above we have not established any uniform method of communication. Having said that DIRA, can discuss any situations with the Senior Society when there is a topic of common concern.

Goal #4:

Make DIRA a more effective organization by

Drafting and obtaining membership approval for improvements to DIRA's Bylaws

We are in the very preliminary stage of a review of our bylaws. As this develops the Executive will keep the membership informed of what we are trying to accomplish.

Establishing an easily accessible, reliable, efficient system for filing the official records of DIRA

The Executive has discussed some kind of electronic filing system, possibly scanning information onto one or more CD's, but no action has been taken.

On other matters, I am very pleased to be able to welcome Transition Denman Island as a committee of DIRA. After months of discussion the membership gave its approval to this move. TDI will gain greater access to the larger Denman community by reporting at our regular monthly meetings. The members of DIRA and the greater community will gain a better understanding of what Transition Denman is all about and what it is trying to do.

Insurance for DIRA and its related committees continues to be a struggle for all of us. It is a huge drain on our very limited resources requiring us to look for funding through Grants-in-Aid as well as assistance from various committees. This year we received a Grant-in-Aid from the CVRD which ear marked \$1000.00 for our commercial liability policy. With this assistance we did not require as much assistance from each committee as we have in the past.

Once again it has been an honour to serve as Chair of DIRA and work with the dedicated group of individuals who make up the executive board. Special thanks to Anne Page, Bert Taylor, and Denise MacKean who are all leaving the board at this time. I especially appreciate their willingness to work collaboratively and take on any task always with the goal of furthering the interests and general welfare of the residents of Denman Island.