

DIRA Chairperson's Annual Report for the 2016 AGM.

Once again it is my pleasure to submit this report highlighting some of DIRA major activities of the 2015-16 year. Once again it has been a busy year for executive members who volunteer their time to steer the Association to the best of their abilities.

Looking back over the year two major issues have consumed much of the Executive's time. One has been working with BC Ferries on the plans for the Boat Ramp at Denman West and the other has been the re-organization of the Waste Management Committee.

With regard to the first issue, members of the Executive held many meetings with representatives from BC Ferries attempting to get a boat ramp that would be most serviceable for Denman residents. The problems ranged from the angle, the slope, and the width of the ramp. I can say over time we were able to achieve the objective we had set on all three areas. We were able to take the suggestion of the Dock Committee with respect to the angle of the ramp thereby ensuring it did not encroach on the dock water lot. We were able to show BC Ferries a way to lower the slope of the ramp to make it slightly less intimidating for users. Finally, we were able to convince BC Ferries to build the ramp a full five meters in width giving a little more room for backing down. A large thank you should go to Doug Wright for his support and suggestions throughout the process.

It should be mentioned that BC Ferries has covered all costs associated with permits, inspections, and of course the actual construction. We sincerely hope the boat ramp will be operational for at least part of the summer boating season.

The second issue that has taken up a considerable amount of the Executive's time has been the need to reorganize the Waste Management function of DIRA. Two events made this a priority item requiring immediate attention. First, Bob French, the Chair of the WM Committee had to resign quickly because of a pressing family health issue. Second, Leslie Dunsmore the Bookkeeper for the committee expressed the desire to give up her role. Faced with these two situations the Executive decided it was the ideal time to consider a restructuring of the operation.

We began by meeting with the managers of the Recycling Centre and the Bottle Return Depot as well as the Bookkeeper. This gave the Executive an understanding of how each section operated. The Executive followed this up by asking each manager, the bookkeeper, and Bob French as the former Chair to write up how they thought the Waste Management function could best operate. Having collected all this valuable information the Executive created a job description for each person then met with the managers and bookkeeper again to go over the descriptions and make changes.

The DIRA membership was kept informed of the progress of the reorganization as it moved through the various stages explained here. When the Executive had a draft organizational plan in place it came before a General Meeting for membership comments, suggestions, and finally approval.

The first stage of implementation of the plan was the advertisement and eventually hiring of a new bookkeeper. Two very good applications were received and interviews took place involving two

Executive members as well the managers and bookkeeper. The successful candidate, Lyndsey Jennings, will begin her orientation for the position shortly. We are very pleased to welcome her to the DIRA Waste Management position.

Soon after this term for the Executive began we received a message from the CVRD with a request for Doug deMarzo to attend a DIRA General Meeting to discuss splitting the Park functions for Denman and Hornby Islands. The CVRD believed both islands would be better served if each had a clear understanding of how much money was available for parks on each island. The DIRA membership was in favour of the suggestion and so the CVRD went ahead with the plan. By last fall the necessary by-law changes had been completed at the regional district level and so the separate functions are now in place.

Last fall the Executive was made aware of an issue surrounding the Telus cable and the construction of the Community Dock. It was brought to our attention that DIRA had an agreement with Telus from 2009 to protect the cable. Questions were being raised whether DIRA, through the Community Dock, was actually carrying out that agreement. After several communications and delays we finally have some clarification from Telus so that the Executive may now be able to pass the matter back to the committee for implementation. Our concern has been and continues to be that any changes be made in the best interest of the majority of the Denman community.

Finally, after five years as Chairperson of DIRA I believe it's time for me to step aside. I have enjoyed most of the challenges we have faced and firmly believe the organization is operating very well now. We have a Service Agreement with the CVRD which gives us an assured source of funding to cover our basic financial requirements as well as assisting two of our committees. We also have a Service Agreement with BC Parks covering insurance for any volunteers working in any BC Parks area. As well we have a similar agreement with the CVRD covering volunteers working in regional district parks.

DIRA is an interesting organization in which most of the day to day work is handled by one of the ten committees that operate under the DIRA umbrella. The DIRA Executive's role is to set policy, monitor finances, and assist with projects and problems as required. Through the five years I have served I have been very fortunate to have excellent people working with me at the Executive level. I am deeply indebted to them all for their support, ideas, and criticisms when needed. It has always been a very collegial group with open discussions occurring in a very supportive environment.

It may surprise people but I will miss DIRA. It will be difficult to get out of the DIRA routine!

Thank you

Frank Frketich
DIRA Chairperson