

## DIRA Chair's Report for 2015 AGM

It is with a good deal of pleasure that I again submit the Chair's annual report on DIRA's activities of the past year to the 2015 Annual General Meeting. There are three significant events I would like to touch on which will have a lasting impact on DIRA.

The first was the passage of many bylaw changes at our 2014 AGM that will affect DIRA for years to come. Those changes were registered with the BC Registry Services after the meeting and were accepted by them.

The second event was the signing of the Service Agreement with the Comox Valley Regional District. After more than two years of negotiations the executive was satisfied it had an agreement acceptable to DIRA. After the agreement was posted on our website discussion ensued with the membership over two general meetings. A motion to authorizing the Executive to sign the agreement was passed at the May 2014 general meeting.

This agreement provides financial security to the DIRA organization. It also requires some of our committees to carry out certain functions here on the island. Two committees, Parks and Trails, now receive budget support from the CVRD to help them fulfill some of their responsibilities under the Service Agreement.

The Service Agreement has allowed DIRA to discontinue its membership fee that was always charged each year. The Executive is pleased to have a more simplified membership process without any cost to islanders.

The third major change this past year was the signing of an agreement with BC Parks which provides insurance for all volunteers while working on project within Provincial Parks. This agreement became necessary as BC Parks changed its policy of working with individual groups of volunteers to working with societies representing volunteers. There was a good deal of negotiation with BC Parks officials before the agreement satisfied the executive and committees affected by it.

Another issue that has taken considerable Executive time and energy has been the proposed construction of a boat ramp to replace the one destroyed by the placement of the new ferry terminal at Denman West. BC Ferries has agreed to build a replacement boat ramp. The DIRA membership has supported the concept of a boat ramp located near the Community Dock and the ferry terminal. The Executive has been involved in negotiations with BC Ferries for many months on the location and design of the ramp itself. We have tried to keep the Community Dock Committee and the membership apprised of the progress of these negotiations as we move forward.

A positive outcome of the changes at the Denman West terminal was the development of a new "Welcome to Denman Island" sign in a more prominent location. With the help of others, notably Peter Karsten and John Johnston, the DIRA Executive was able to keep the relocation matter on the radar of BC Ferries as the terminal took shape. The finished product is a tribute to everyone's work and something all islanders can take some pride in.

The DIRA Executive spent considerable time wrestling with the issue of financial reporting which is now a requirement of the Service Agreement with the CVRD. We are currently in the middle of a reorganization of DIRA finances to ensure we are fulfilling the reporting requirements adequately. To this end DIRA has purchased computer hardware and software to streamline that whole process.

Finally, I would like to welcome the newest committee under the DIRA umbrella. The Guardians of Denman Shores are doing just as their name suggests. DIRA will be very interested to see how their efforts proceed in the future.

In conclusion the Executive would like to offer their thanks to all the chairs and members of DIRA's many committees. Your endeavours have made life on Denman Island better in large and small ways for all the residents. You are the life blood of the organization!

One behalf of the Executive and myself personally I would like to offer a huge thank you to Bob French for all the hours he put into the Waste Management Committee and the DIRA Executive over the years. His insights, wisdom, and ideas will be missed by all of us who worked with Bob in some capacity. Whatever project he was working on he always did it with the best interests of the community in mind.

I would like to end by saying it has once again been a pleasure to be able to serve as the Chair of DIRA. Your support over the year has been much appreciated, thank you.

Frank Frketich  
Chairperson, DIRA