

DIRA Guardians of Denman Shores Committee Report  
DIRA AGM of April 13, 2015

This committee was formed in Sept. 2014 out of an increased need to protect the beaches and waters of Denman Island and works in tandem with the Association for Denman Island Marine Stewards to accomplish this goal. Forming a DIRA committee allows for more public input and inclusion of as many residents as possible as well as direct contact with the Comox Valley Regional District. It also gives us one more environmental voice in the vacuum that often accompanies the different levels of bureaucracy.

Even though there are many issues which need addressing when it comes to our beaches and waters, one was identified through the DIRA Parks Committee and our Local Trust as being best served through DIRA- the restriction of vehicles driving on our foreshore. This practice destroys fish habitat and disrupts the ambiance of our quiet and serene environment, is totally unnecessary and illegal according to the Fisheries Act. Pedestrian and emergency vehicle access will not be compromised.

To make sure we “got it right”, an island wide survey was conducted (thanks to a donation from ADIMS) with 116 residents saying yes to restricting vehicles and 8 saying no. We then went back to DIRA and received approval via a motion to proceed with next steps which may include erecting removable barriers such as is used by the DIRA Parks Committee. Costs will be kept at a minimum due to the donation by BC Ferries of their sub-standard concrete barriers.

DIRA Guardians were also involved in a meeting with the CVRD to decide placement of a sewer outfall for Cumberland, Royston and Union Bay, with Baynes Sound being the favored option. It was clear from the many hours of research done, that Baynes Sound was not appropriate and the recommendation was to add to the existing outfall at Cape Lazo instead.

A DIRA voice (through the Guardians committee) was also heard and will continue to be heard at the biannual DFO sponsored meeting with the aquaculture industry and First Nations reps. to discuss issues relating to the shellfish industry. A report of that meeting will be made during the Reports section of this AGM.

Even though we are a committed and determined group of dedicated volunteers, our committee is always looking for new members and input from our community. Our email address is [diraguardians@gmail.com](mailto:diraguardians@gmail.com) or feel free to call any of our current members-

Liz Johnston

Dorrie Woodward

Pat McLaughlin

Rob Wilthsire

Edi Johnston

Barb Mills

John Johnston

JoAnne Shepherd

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