



Stewards of our Natural Legacy

Bowen Island Conservancy

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October 14, 2009

Dave Witty, Chair
Bowen Island OCP Update Steering Committee
Bowen Island Municipality
981 Artisan Lane
Bowen Island, BC
V0N 1G0

Dear Mr. Witty,

We are writing to you on the behalf of the Board of Bowen Island Conservancy, a nonprofit organization that has served Bowen Island for many years. We hope to participate in all phases of the OCP process according to the limits of our Constitution (attached).

We have stated in a recent submission to the Municipality that:

"Once land is developed, its natural ecology is gone, possibly forever, and so are the vital ecological services that it previously provided. Bowen has the chance to make intelligent decisions about land use which would benefit future generations on Bowen and throughout our region."

Our initial statement to the OCP process is a simple one. We are deeply aware of the interconnectedness of all people and Things here on Bowen. We acknowledge the role of people as creative members of the greater ecosystem. Our aim is to contribute wherever possible to the wise stewardship of this island's ecosystems.

Based upon our Constitution, we have set priorities for our Society. These are:

1. Increase the amount of protected lands on Bowen.
2. Promote the "Greenway" concept of connected protected lands and enlarge the area of protected lands in the Greenway.
3. Promote restoration and management of environmentally significant areas
4. Promote and provide education related to land conservation and environmental issues.

We remain committed to learning from and working with Conservation organizations throughout the Gulf Islands & Province.

Thank you for including us in this most important process. We look forward to contributing to the discussion in an ongoing manner.

Sincerely,

Peter Drake, Josephine Riley, Alan Whitehead, Jeff Matheson, Andrea Kaufman, Everhard Van Lidth de Jeude, Wynn Nielsen, Katy Zaremba and Micaele Florendo

Board Members, Bowen Island Conservancy

SOCIETY ACT CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the society is Bowen Island Conservancy.
2. The purposes of the society are to:
 - a) conserve, protect, sustain and enhance the quality of the natural environment and heritage of Bowen island, neighbouring islets and surrounding waters for the benefit of the inhabitants of Bowen Island and the province of British Columbia generally;
 - b) identify and initiate the establishment, protection and management of environmentally sensitive areas, including areas of vital habitat, scenic value, territories protecting watersheds, and conservation areas;
 - c) hold or administer, through conservation covenants or other legal means, the establishment, protection and management of environmentally sensitive areas and conservation heritage areas,
 - d) raise money, acquire funds, accept gifts or other assistance and own, by purchase, donation, covenant or otherwise, land or personal property and to manage such property or to exchange, rent, lease or sell the property to further the purposes of the Society;
 - e) participate in and contribute to the management of Bowen Island's natural resources on public and private lands;
 - f) facilitate research, public education and community participation in environmental stewardship, land use management and conservation;
 - g) increase public awareness of, appreciation for, and understanding of the natural and heritage resources of Bowen Island and practices that sustain these resources;
 - h) collect, interpret and synthesize information about these resources and make this information readily available for use on Bowen Island, in order to contribute to public education and community planning and
 - i) undertake anything incidental and necessary to promote and attain the Society's purposes and periodically to reassess these purposes.
3. The activities of the Society will be conducted primarily on Bowen Island, its neighbouring islets and surrounding waters.