

Denman Island Residents Executive Board
Annual General Meeting Chair Report

Chair: Elizabeth Johnston

2010 Year in Review

I have been honored to be a volunteer on the DIRA Executive Board over the past three years, and as acting Chair over the past 10 months. Although this past year got off to a difficult start with the resignation of two executive members last July, resulting in an October by-election, it has also been a very busy and productive year. A Special DIRA Meeting was held in October to address communication and governance concerns and from that meeting some excellent recommendations were put forward and I am confident that DIRA is now headed in a very positive direction.

The DIRA membership has increased dramatically with currently over 250 members. The increased amount of projects & undertakings by our committees has been quite amazing! It is these DIRA Committees that are truly the back-bone of DIRA and they deserve all the credit and appreciation for the amazing array of accomplishments and services to this community. On behalf of this association I would like to express sincere appreciation to all these generous and dedicated volunteers who contribute so much to this community. Rather than attempting to start listing all the varied committee undertaking, projects and accomplishments over the last year, I will let the committees reports speak for themselves.

I would also like to express sincere appreciation to my fellow executive members, for their hard work, personal support and team work. Not only has the organization expanded, but so too have the amount of meetings, correspondence and executive duties. I would also like to thank Cindy Critchley, who acted as the DIRA representative on the Old School Committee. I would also like to thank David Critchely, Doug Oldstead and Morley McKeachie for much appreciated Legal Council. Many thanks also to all our Regional Director and all our CVRD and Islands Trust Representatives who are always willing to assist DIRA with projects and concerns.

Here is a brief snapshot of Executive Board initiatives this past year.

- This year saw the launch of the DIRA Website. The DIRA Executive received \$1000 funding to get the website up and running last October. This has already proved to be an amazing tool to keep the community informed and updated on DIRA business. We also developed a DIRA email address to ensure that all 8 Executive board members are copied on correspondence. The Photo contest was also a great success. Many thanks to Claire Sierra for a great hosting job.
- Along with improved email and internet communications, a new membership database system was also developed by Executive member Moira Webster who

has really cranked it up a notch. The executive also has started using the DICEEC community projector at meetings to cut down on wasted paper.

- The Yearly 'Recreation Grant Committee' was successfully steered by Executive member Andrew Scruton and over \$17,000 was awarded to numerous Denman Island community groups for recreation, sports and athletic endeavors. Andrew has continued on as Vice Chair this past year despite his own personal health problems and continues to be a valuable resource to this executive, and I would personally like to thank him for his generosity to DIRA and this community.
- Further to recommendations made Tony Law who facilitated the DIRA 'Special Meeting' last October, the DIRA executive are coordinating a 'Communication Governance Workshop' for this upcoming June or early July for the DIRA Executive Committees Chairs. The executive applied in January for a Grant-in-Aid to help fund this and other administrative initiatives. This executive has a very limited operating budget funded only from membership dues each year. I would like to thank our Trusty Treasurer Derek Hood who manages to keep us on track financially, and is now going into his 4th year as DIRA Treasurer.
- The Executive has been working on long needed DIRA Constitutional changes for the past few years to clarify DIRA membership and voting rules. These changes were adopted by the membership in March and take effect tonight. The newly ratified Constitution is now available on the website. Many thanks to Sharon Clark & the Membership Cmтт for the recommendations made to the Executive.
- Further to a Meeting between the DIRA Executive and CVRD last December, the executive is continuing with the ongoing examination of DIRA administrative & fiduciary responsibilities & exploration of possible adoption of a 'Hornby Island' model of contractual relationship with the CVRD for our taxed based services. We are also in the process of completing & updating other DIRA Policy Bylaws. We would like to thank Patti Willis for her diligence and hard work as 'Lead Executive' on these initiatives. Her proficiency will be sorely missed by this executive, but she has agreed to continue in the role of 'Executive Consultant'.
- Further to meetings with CVRD executive member Doug Wright undertook to prepare a forensic examination of Denman Island Property Taxes to try to help Denman Island Residents understand how our property taxes are levied & administrated, and who to contact with resident questions and concerns.
- General Insurance Liability issues developed in 2009 with our DIRA Policy and this may be one of the biggest DIRA challenges this year. DIRA is being tasked with accountability for each and every DIRA activity and must provide a 'Risk Management & Assessment Plan' for each Committee. We have been very

lucky to have Max Campil Wedges on the Board this past year with his extensive experience in the insurance and liability business. He is also the volunteer who sets up the hall and gets the fire going before all these meetings.

- Other Executive Involvement this year include :
 - New ESS Generator for the Community Emergency Center
 - DIRA representation at the Healthcare Providers Networking Meetings
 - Raven Coal Mines Project Protest
 - Support for Denman Island Memorial Society Project
 - Environmental Concerns raised by DI Marine Stewardship Committee
 - Community Announcement (Tsunami warning to the community)

In closing I would again like to thank all our DIRA volunteers, and welcome our new Executive Board Members. The Executive Boards function is to take direction from our members & committees by assisting them with their initiatives. We must at the same time provide accountability, transparency and inclusiveness to all DIRA members. In the spirit of goodwill we look forward to working with you towards the best interests and welfare of all Denman Island Residents.

Sincerely,
Liz Johnston
DIRA Chair

Attached Document: Written Report Only :

DIRA Committees Highlights:

- Bill Mee Park: Completion of the extension of Bill Mee Park Breakwater, and negotiations for a new 1 year Contract for Bill Mee Park with CVRD.
- Parks Committee: Creation of Stanehill Park and consultation on other Parks development on Denman Island.
- Dock Committee: Acquisition of Lot 257 and funding of \$75,000 towards the Community Dock from DFO. Application & receipt of a building and siting permit with Island Trust. Application for Access permit from Dept of Transport. Application and receipt for Class B Permit to hold a raffle. Submission of funding applications with CVRD WestCap and ICTE. Application for
- ESS: Announcement of funding for DI ESS for an acquisition of a new Generator for the Resident Emergency Center at Elkhaven Children's Camp.
- DICEEC: Development of the Committee Policies. Community Open House. Facilitation of Community Workshops, Community Focus Groups. Development of a 5 Year Strategic Plan for Economic Development on Denman Island and the upcoming opening of a Denman Island Resource Centre.

- Waste Management Committee: New Contracts for waste management refuse and recycling contractors. Acquisition of new Glass Crushing equipment. The hiring of payroll and administrative employee for Waste Management.
- Pesticide Free Committee: New broom pulling equipment purchase available for rent and ongoing broom pulling work parties. Continued commitment to a pesticide free Denman Island.
- Old School Committee: Building & Property Maintenance & ongoing management of its activities, including rentals, recycling, free store, and Saturday market and new proposal of new access to property
- DIVFD: MOU for acquiring a new ambulance station for Denman Island. Expansion of Training programs and implementation of mandatory training guidelines. Ongoing Training and Management of DIVFD
- Wildlife Advisory Committee: Creation of new Terms of Reference and continued diligence in the community and Island wildlife.
- Trails Committee: Ongoing quest for a Cross Island Trail plus the monitoring and maintenance of existing trails.
- Membership Committee: Assistance with membership drive, elections. Report submission of recommendations regarding DIRA Constitution rules on voting and membership.
- VIRE: The ongoing quest for a new regional Library on Denman Island. Public meeting held in 2010 with excellent public attendance.
- Ferry Advisory: Ongoing reports from BC Ferry, and their impact on our community, and reports of a possible cable ferry for Denman Island
- Islands Trust: Ongoing reports to residents of Islands Trust meetings and initiatives.
- CVRD Director Bruce Jolliffe and CVRD Community Services Managers reports to community, including a Tax information meeting for all the Denman Community.