

# Denman Island Residents Association

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## Chair Report for Annual General Meeting April 11, 2011 (Chair: Liz Johnston)

I have been honoured to be elected to the DIRA Executive Board over the past four years serving twice as Vice Chair then as Chair during the past two years. DIRA is the sum of all its parts, so I would like to keep this brief, and express sincere appreciation to ALL the generous and dedicated volunteers and members of DIRA.

DIRA has grown in leaps and bounds over the past few years with increased membership, and increased committee initiatives and responsibilities. I have attached an overview chart of DIRA using 2010 info for this report, which clearly shows how DIRA has expanded. It is for this reason that I would like to make the recommendation: that it may be time to look at some shared administrative assistance within the organization. I think this may be something that should be discussed at the upcoming CVRD Governance meeting to be held April 16 and by the membership at a later date.

Before we get to the election process to fill the 5 vacant board positions, I would like to give special thanks to;

Andrew Scruton has completed his two year term serving as Vice Chair. He served on the board for an additional 4 years, 3 as DIRA President which makes him one of DIRAs longest running Executive Members. Despite his own serious health issues, he has continued to assist us with all aspects of DIRA business. Andrew has taught us a lot about parliamentary issues, but more importantly he has by example taught us 'true generosity of spirit'. Andrew you are an inspiration to us all and will leave you with these words to express our appreciation. 'Well done my friend!'

Derek Hood has completed 4 years on the Board (2 full terms as DIRA Treasurer) and has been invaluable keeping us 'on track' both financially and mentally. Thank you, Derek, for your strong leadership skills, your patience, and willingness to assistance with the many difficult situations that arose.

Also would like thank all the other board members, Nettie Cotter, Doug Wright, Doug Ward, Frank Frketich, and Max Campill-Wedges who all have made unique contributions to DIRA and this community. I have truly enjoyed working with you all.

### 2011 DIRA Highlights of the Past year

- DIRA Executive received CVRD Grant-in-Aid funding of \$1000. In Aug 2010-11 for administration purposes. Originally the executive had applied for some of these funds to facilitate a community workshop to discuss governance. After discussion with CVRD, Regional Director: Bruce Jolliffe offered to facilitate such a workshop which will be held April 16, 2011 at the Denman Island Community Hall from 1-4pm.

- The Executive launched a membership drive in January 2011, which has brought in approx. \$1,500. The current membership is approx. 240 members.
- Worksafe BC undertook an assessment of DIRA WWC Rate based on current information provided and has applied a new assessment rate for DIRA employees.
- DIRA Executive has completed the process of application with Canada Revenue Agency to ensure that DIRA Committees can make application for rebate of HST/GST.
- DIRA Insurance policies were examined and updated. The General Commercial Policy was transferred to AXIS insurance company. A meeting with all Committee Chairs was held in Jan to meet new insurance representative and ask pertinent questions.
- Changes were made to the DIRA Bylaws 'Funding Policy' to provide leniency for applicants to ensure that funding application deadlines can be met.
- The Graham Lake Swim Dock was within a hair of being decommissioned due to liability concerns last year. Insurance was secured and a new 'Swim Dock Committee' stepped up to repair, revitalize and provide oversight for the swim dock.
- Bill Mee Park Boat Launch ramp expansion was successfully completed late summer, new picnic tables were acquired with the old ones being donated to the Old School. A new 3 year contract was signed by DIRA/CVRD. BC Ferries has requested to use the Boat Launch this fall for the two week interruption of the Hornby Ferry.
- The Old School Committee applied for a new access permit from DOT for the new driveway entrance. The new parking area was completed for the summer market.
- DIRA Parks Committee developed and opened Stanehill Interpretive Park, and are working on developing Morning Beach Park staircase. PC continues to seek community consultation regarding all DI Parks.
- The Dock Committee received approval of funding from ICET, WestCCap, CVRD Grant-in-Aid and Recreation Funding sources. They also raised funds for the project with a raffle & firewood sales. All approvals are in place with construction planned for June.
- The Recreation Grant Committee' process was facilitated by DIRA between May-July 2010. Numerous community non-profits made application for the funding with a total of \$20,000. awarded to the successful applicants for recreation endeavors.
- The DICEEC Resource Centre office was opened in June. DICEEC committee members stepped down in August. DIRA dispersed the 'Community Project Funding Grants' to successful non-profit applicants in September. New committee members came forward in Sept with a new revitalized committee. 'Denman WORKS!' received community support to carry on with EE services till March 31, 2011. CVRD provided community meeting & a questionnaire in regards to the future of this service.
- Pesticide Free Committee erected their new sign 'Butterflies Live Here' on the West ferry hill in partnership with the DIVFD that conveys both pesticide and fire danger messages. The committee continues with 'broom puller' rentals.
- Waste Management Committee now has the new glass crusher operating and also installed new lighting for the recycling area. WMC donation bins provide \$9350 to community organizations. WMC lowered their budget in Feb/11.
- Wildlife Advisory Committee continued to provide vigilance in the community regarding all wildlife, and other animal issues including RATS!
- The DIRA/CVRD Contract to Provide Fire Services for Denman Island from 1983 was examined and found to be outdated and unenforced. After discussion at numerous meetings, the executive was directed to request that the contract be terminated and that the CVRD appoint

an 'interim community representative committee' through the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association, until such time as a long term solution is found.

- The DIVFD have prepared the site property (next to the Fire Hall property) for the future DI Ambulance Station. The a notice of intention to lease the property to Emergency Health Services Commission for a DI Ambulance Station was signed March 16, by CVRD and will commence April 1, 2011, with occupancy of the station to follow.
- VIRL Liaison Bill Engleson continues to hope to someday have a library on Denman Island.
- Ferry Advisory Committee has advised us that the BC Ferries is pursuing the cable ferry alternative for Denman within 3 years. Concerns continue to be raised about rate increases on the ferries for residents. Traffic congestion concerns have also been raised due to the backing up traffic during the summer.
- Many thanks to our Island Trustees who continually and diligently bring an Island Trust report to the DIRA meetings every month to help keep the community informed.

In closing I would like to thank all DIRA Members, Committees, and Reporting Liaison Committees. A warm welcome is extended to the incoming Executive Board.

Sincerely, Liz Johnston,

DIRA Chair      ([See DIRA 2010-2011 Structure Organization Chart on Following Page](#))

## DIRA Overview of Committee Structure/Relationship/Function 2010-2011 (chair report)

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