

Chairman and Directors
Powell River Regional District
5776 Marine Ave., Powell River, BC
V8A 2M4
Fax: (604 483-2229)
planning@powellriverrd.bc.ca

Tuesday May 18, 2010

Re: "Savary Island OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 403.1, 2010 Public Hearing"

Dear Directors:

I write on behalf of the directors of the Savary Island Land Trust Society. The protection of DL 1375 was the catalyst for SILT's beginnings 13 years ago. Today SILT has over 260 members, and holds nine parcels of land on Savary Island. SILT endorses the OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 403.1.

There are several good reasons to adopt this bylaw. The parcel contains Western Canada's only intact example of a rare forested-dune ecosystem. The land includes approximately 70% of the island's unique Aeolian dunes that have formed over the past 10,000 years. Dunes are highly sensitive to disturbance. Most coastal dune ecosystems only occupy a few hectares. Approximately half of the 329 acres of DL 1375 is covered in coastal and inland dunes. DL 1375 is considered to be ecologically and biophysically significant on a provincial, national and a global basis for a number of the ecosystem types.

The archaeological sites on the DL 1375 include, house platforms, root resource harvesting and shellfish processing sites, culturally modified trees and middens.ⁱ Because of the early and over subdivision of Savary many of the archaeological sites on the Island have been disturbed or destroyed. This loss makes the sites on DL 1375, highly significant because they are still intact.

This land is home to documented populations of the Contorted evening primrose (*Camissonia contorta*), which is endangered under the federal Species at Risk Act.

These features, sites, ecosystems and endangered plants all need protection. We believe that the best possible outcome for this property would be to protect it in its entirety as an Ecological Reserve now and forever. We recognise that local zoning is critical now if the land is to be subdivided. Thank you for taking the initiative, to bring this forward, to the Savary community.

Sincerely,

Liz Webster M.A.
Executive Director
Savary Island Land Trust Society

ⁱ Archaeological Impact Assessment Proposed Residential Development Portion of District Lot 1373, and District Lot 1375, G.P. One New Westminister District Savary Island, B.C Heritage Conservation Act Permit 1999-162.