

1,100 ACRES to be SET ASIDE PLAN IN THE WORKS

By: June Harrison

A plan and application just submitted to the Islands Trust is being processed through the usual planning channels and holds outstanding possibilities for Gabriola Island. The plan would give Gabriola 1,100 acres of land to be held for conservation purposes.

One of the applicants, Mrs. Borsuk, is applying for a transfer of density from 1,110 in the Forestry zone to land in the Resource zone. This is in keeping with the guidelines and direction of the island's community plan, which was developed and agreed upon following lengthy public input and consultation a number of years ago.

The 1,110 acres is one massive chunk of land and would be one of the largest preserved "parks" in all of the Gulf Islands. This worthwhile application will now be analyzed and processed through the proper avenues and the applicants, Trust staff and locally elected Trustees will ensure that it receives the appropriate consideration and attention.

This is an exciting development that would enhance the preservation of a vast area of land on Gabriola.

Trustee Gisele Rudischer submitted an official Trustee Report:

"We recently received an application to transfer density from 1110 acres of land in the Forestry zone to three separate parcels of land in the Resource zone. Our OCP supports the principle of density transfers and contains policies that allow density to be transferred at the rate of 1 density for every 20 acres of Forestry land.

The land the density is transferred from (the donor parcel) must then be donated to a public body and held for wilderness recreation and conservation purposes. The land that receives the density (the receiver parcel) must not be developed to an excess of an average density of 5 acres.

If successful, this application could result in over 1100 acres of public land for recreation and conservation. Further information on this and the Home Occupation review will be available at our next Local Trust Committee meeting on Aug. 24, 10 am at the Agricultural Hall".