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Cash-in-lieu for James Island development

At the February meeting of the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee, trustees voted in favour of accepting cash-in-lieu from the developer of James Island rather than receiving dedicated parkland for the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area.

The developer offered a minimum of \$1,500,000 instead of providing the waterfront access park which Susan DeGryp, CRD Director for the Southern Gulf Islands had requested. DeGryp says she worked quite hard to ensure that Section 941 of the *Local Government Act*, which deals with parkland dedication or cash-in-lieu at time of subdivision, was adhered to.

When the deal is finalized, the funds will be received by the CRD and go into a park acquisition reserve for the Southern Gulf Islands.

Although James Island is administered by the Pender Island Local Trust Committee, it is not included in the Pender Island parks service area. Up till last year, many smaller islands in the Southern Gulf Island Electoral Areas did not come under any of

the local parks service areas.

This was a loophole that Director DeGryp said needed to be closed, particularly as other small islands may apply for subdivision in the future. Last October, Director DeGryp brought into effect new bylaws, N^o3382 and N^o3383, which include every Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area island, large or small, in the same park service area.

Director DeGryp is planning to strike a working committee comprised of a representative from Mayne, Saturna, Galiano, and Pender Islands to plan for future park acquisitions. ✍

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