

Transportation Committee Report

7th March, 2019

The local Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure manager, Andy Newall, who has given us such excellent cooperation and service over the years, has retired. We strongly recommend those who have not read his letter announcing his retirement reproduced in the Spring Quarterly should do so. It is very complimentary to Thetis.

For the past many years, we have enjoyed a high level of road maintenance on Thetis Island, which has been done by Mainroad . In particular, their employee, Grant Gordon, has provided outstanding service, keeping the roads tidy and rapidly opened up after storm damage or snow. Mainroad's contract is up and bids are being considered by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. We have written letters to MOTI recommending the contract be re-awarded to Mainroad.

A changeover of personnel in Victoria and Andy's retirement has derailed the road safety initiative started in 2016, which will need restarting.

A replacement for Andy Newall has not been appointed yet, which delayed a request from the Trails Committee made in January for no parking signs on Pilkey Point Rd at the start of the Dingly Dell Trail. Jake Roder, handling Andy's file in addition to his own, was finally able to come over to look into the request on March 13 and was willing to provide signs, but they would not arrive in time for the Trail opening on March 18. The Trails committee got MOTI's official approval to place no parking signs made by Leon Signs on Pilkey Point Road at the trail head.

I was invited as the TIRRA representative to a MOTI workshop in Victoria on March 15th, on the subject of active transportation. Active transportation is any people powered form of transport, walking, cycling, skateboarding, kayaking, etc. I attended in the hopes of learning something that would be useful for Thetis Island, but it was a bit of a waste of time. 99% of it was city oriented, and the big elephant in the room, namely financing, was only mentioned as a potential obstacle dismissed with "be creative."

This is my last report as Transportation Chair as I am not standing for re-election.

Respectfully submitted:

Graeme Shelford

Chair, Transportation Committee