

Sanitation/Solid Waste Management Committee Report, Spring 2012

New developments at our Sanitation Yard:

Sanitation Committee and TIRRA have negotiated a new contract with HAARSMA Waste management. HAARSMA will replace BFI our waste removal service provider. There are a number of reasons for this change in service. Primarily, we could not reach agreement with BFI on major issues such as their “new fee structure”. We are hopeful that we will enjoy a productive, supportive business relationship with HAARSMA.

A number of property owners had requested that the Committee consider making access to the garbage bins easier. As you may be aware a footpath and gate are now at the entrance way site to provide easy access, for dropping off **house hold garbage only**, on days that staff are not there. The addition of this gate will provide Thetis Islanders flexible access for household garbage disposal. Our hope is that this easy accessibility will be used appropriately, and will be of benefit to all property owners.

Other additions to the site include; more gravel on the grounds of the recycle, garbage and parking areas, a culvert extension and fill to the trench at the yard entrance.

Recycle/Garbage Guidelines and Education:

An updated Recycle/Garbage handout has recently been distributed and will be posted on the Thetis Island website. Stephanie Cottell will be presenting educational sessions to the community regarding recycle practices and site usage – dates to be announced. We would also like to welcome Stephanie as a new addition to the yard working with Ron Banister on a part-time basis.

It is important to keep in mind that one of our biggest challenges is cost control, especially in regards to recycling of materials. We will need to closely monitor costs and expenditures, even though our operational funding is now more secure.

Our new funding system will be formally in place this year. The funding for the system will be provided through the approved parcel tax on all properties. This has been put in place to ensure our sanitation/solid waste system is sustainable and has longevity. We will be receiving our yearly funding, of approximately \$40,000, from the CVRD. You will see the new parcel tax on your upcoming property tax notice.

Present and Future Challenges Facing TIRRA and our Solid Waste (Sanitation) Committee:

- Addressing inappropriate dumping of restricted materials.
- The need to include contingency funds in our new budget.
- Monitoring/managing the funding via our Parcel Tax implementation.

- Re-payment of \$10,000.00 loan to TIRRA for Sanitation Solid Waste Services (approximately \$2,000.00 per year for 5 years).
- Creating a system for “Rebates” to property owners that is fair and equitable to both our community and property owners.
- Ensuring our new system remains sustainable with present funding structures.
- Continue educating our community in the areas of: garbage disposal, recycling and appropriate use of our sanitation system. This will help save money and our environment!

Thank you to the overwhelming majority of Thetis Islanders that have supported our relatively new system, as well as its development and continued sustainability. Thanks also to our committed volunteers who work at the site. **Special thanks** to the Porter family on Fraser Point for their contributions and donations of gravel and gravel delivery.

We are looking for volunteers from our community to participate on our Sanitation/Solid Waste Management Committee. Please consider contributing time to this important community committee.

Steve Frankel, SSWMC