

## ***Cortes Island (Area I) Regional Director's Report***

The long awaited rains heralded the end of summer. I'm sure most islanders welcomed the little bit of precipitation we've had the past few days. It has washed summer dust off most everything and lowered daytime temperatures lessening forest fire concerns. My gardens heaved a collected sigh of "thank-you" as I have been rather remiss with watering this year. The cover crop is waiting to be sown and the garlic bed awaits preparation.

### ***Beach Access Trails Update***

Beth Rees, Manager of Parks Planning, continues to work toward the necessary approvals needed for the Hayes Road (Smelt Bay), Gnat Road (Squirrel Cove), and Seascape and Moon Roads (between Hollyhock and Hank's Beach) trails to be built. Cove Road (in Whaletown) needs further assessment because of possible on-site contamination from abandoned, rusty fuel drums. Therefore, this access site will require more assessment before entering into the approval process. It is proposed that trail construction will be carried out in a partnership between the Regional District and the Friends of Cortes Island. The goal for the fall is to complete the Hayes and Seascape beach access trails.

At the onset of the project a number of folks indicated they would be willing to donate their time, energy, machines or materials toward trail building. John Sprungman has contacted individuals that have expressed interest over the past months. If you are just learning of this exciting initiative and are interested in participating please contact John. He is generating a list of volunteers and will notify everyone when the various projects can commence. I am hopeful trail building will start toward the end of the month. Thanks for the continued patience of those waiting to build and utilize the proposed beach accesses.

### ***Water Tanker Truck***

The Cortes Island Volunteer Fire Department will soon take possession of a new (to us) water tanker truck. This demonstration vehicle meets the unique geographic conditions of Cortes Island and will provide the Volunteer Fire Department with the equipment needed to fight fires as the island continues to grow and develop. It is currently undergoing a few necessary modifications in Lantzville and should arrive on island sometime in October. This truck will be a welcome addition to the fire fighting capabilities of our volunteer fire fighters.

### ***Going Camping!***

While most people love to holiday during the summer Brian and I prefer to travel when parks, campgrounds, roads, and ferries are not so busy. We will be leaving for a three-week camping trip September 20. We have yet to decide in which direction to travel but ideally, our path will take us to a location of glorious autumn colour. John Sprungman, my alternate director, will attend Board and Committee of the Whole meetings in Courtenay the end of the month. I will return in time to attend Community Service Committee meetings mid-October, followed by the UBCM Convention one week later. My laptop and cell phone will remain at home and I won't be able to respond to

your queries until I return home. If you could hold off with your communication until mid-October you won't be faced with the frustration of beeping answering machines and filled email and cell-phone services. Should you require any RD information while I am away, please call 1-800-331-6007 where you will receive help from Regional District Staff. Until then feel free to contact me at 935-6488 Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4 pm. If you get the answering machine try my cell phone -- 202-6488. You can also email me at [brijen@oberon.ark.com](mailto:brijen@oberon.ark.com) anytime.

*Respectfully submitted by Jenny Hiebert—Regional Director Area 'I' (Cortes)*