

Hello Gord and Sheldon –

I want to provide you with some clarification on the Langdale float issue mentioned by Trustee Jan Hagedorn at the Islands Trust session on Salt Spring Island.

The float in question is used primarily by island private boats for picking up and dropping off people for Route 3. It has been a contentious issue for BC Ferries for years, probably since the terminal was relocated to Langdale some 50+ years ago. More recently with the terrorist threat and MARSEC regulations, it was a perfect time for BCF to do something about the situation, i.e. close the float to private boats. Needless to say Keats/Gambier folks were totally enraged. The Gambier Community Association decided to hold a community meeting and I volunteered to get someone from BCF to attend. After asking a few folks and getting negative responses, I decided to ask Rob Clarke to help me. In the end he attended himself and also brought two of the three people that I had asked. All this was in March 2009. The Sunshine Coast Regional District got involved, started looking for a new place to construct a float but that proved almost impossible without it being very costly. Since then, the SCRDC and BCF (Rob C.) have worked on a licensing agreement which was finalized recently. The next thing for the SCRDC was to set up a property tax function to cover the liability insurance and other costs which required public approval. It was decided to go to the Alternate Approval Process for this. The AAP voting was complete at the end of August with not one vote cast – success!! The additional property tax will apply to islands in Howe Sound only. BCF are presently constructing the float and preparing to install marine marker buoys. This float will have some time constraints geared to the arrival/departure time of the Rte 3 vessel. They expect installation within a few months. I can't thank Rob Clarke enough as he has been the voice of BC Ferries throughout the entire process.

Regards,
Joyce Clegg
Chair, Gambier/Keats FAC
Gambier Islands Trustee