

November 2, 2015

The Mayor & Council
District of Central Saanich
By email

Dear Mayor & Council

Re: Repair of public boat ramp at Island View Beach
Agenda item 9.2

We write in support of the letter from Mr. Derek Innes on your agenda item 9.2 on your meeting tonight. <https://centralsaanich.civicweb.net/document/19299/Correspondence%20-%20D%20Innes%20-%20Repair%20Launching%20Ramp%20a.pdf?handle=F895A659A170497EA075DFDC6CE7C136>

The boat ramp was built in the 1970's by local people under a Federal Government L.I.P. grant. It is one of the few public boat ramps on the Peninsula and serves valuable public functions:

- It was used by the Central Saanich Fire Rescue boat until its condition became too dangerous.
- It is used 10-15 times a year by barges from James Island
- And is/was used by the public for recreational boating and fishing

It meets an important public need and is definitely worth preserving.

You will see from the correspondence on our web site at <http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/boat-launch.html> that in 2009 the owners of James Island offered to fix the ramp at their expense and continue to maintain it. Unfortunately that opportunity was lost when the Council of the day referred it to the CRD who said it needed studying - which study never happened - and so this offer died a slow death.

May we suggest that Council create an ad hoc committee under the Chairmanship of Tom Michell, to assemble a group of interested parties, to examine alternatives for the repair of the boat ramp and report back to Council. Just as the boat ramp was built by locals with Federal money, so there may be opportunities to resurrect the James Island offer in whole or in part, and to use community volunteers and corporate donors for the work. As you know, Tom and his family are major land owners and farmers in the community, including a substantial waterfront property near the boat ramp.

Sincerely,

The Friends of Island View Beach
By email from friendsofislandviewbeach@gmail.com