

## Ladysmith Waterfront Area Plan

This report provides an update on LMS activities related to the Town of Ladysmith Waterfront Area Plan review.

### Background

The Town recently hired a consultant to engage the community in a process to update the Waterfront Area Plan. In addition, LMS has been invited to nominate one person to participate on a 25 member design charrette team. The purpose of the design charrette is to visually explore land use and design options, which would then be presented to the community for feedback. Paul Nowlan has been nominated to represent LMS at the design charrette. LMS has also been invited to join a working committee, along with other property owners and tenants in the waterfront area.

### Ideas for the Waterfront Area

To help prepare for the design charrette, LMS members were asked to share ideas for the waterfront area from Transfer Beach to the Government Wharf, including the water lots, foreshore and upland areas. About 70 ideas were submitted by 15 members. These ideas were then grouped into 10 geographic or activity areas, printed on poster-size paper, and displayed at an open house held at the Welcome Centre on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-four members attended the open house, where they were asked to apply sticky dots next to their favourite ideas.

The full results of this voting process will be made available to you. Meanwhile, the more popular ideas describe the following vision for the waterfront area:

- As a matter of principle, Water Access would not be blocked or privatized between Transfer Beach and Fisherman's Wharf.
- North of the LMS marina, a Paddling Centre, built on a float with access from the base of the marina ramp, would provide kayak storage and become part of the BC Marine Trails Network.
- Closer to shore, a Floating Walkway, meandering through restored sea beds, would connect the marina to the Fisherman's Wharf parking lot area.
- You might also see Float Homes in this area, north of the marina.
- Water Lot 651, located to our south, would have a Marina, or a Marine Park similar to Montague Harbour or Newcastle Island.
- A Breakwater or Floating Breakwater would run north from Slack Point toward Fisherman's Wharf, and help protect our marina from wave action.
- The Slack Point area would be stabilized, cleaned up, and developed with park space, a seaside walkway, camping areas, restaurant, and marina facilities.
- A Trail Network would link Transfer Beach to the end of the Fisherman's Wharf breakwater, and also improve connections to the Downtown area.

- The shore area fronting the LMS water lot and water lot 651 would be widened to provide space for a paved street as well as parking, a walkway and bike path.
- In the Upland area, the Car Shop would continue to be used for LMS projects such as heritage vessel maintenance and restoration.
- The Expo Building would attract more visitors to the waterfront area.
- A Waterfront Village located on the ground floor of the Expo Building would feature small heritage-style buildings and provide space for heritage and cultural exhibits, demonstrations and interactive experiences.
- Other Heritage Attractions would include SFN artifacts as well as outdoor equipment displays throughout the waterfront area.
- There would also be more facilities for Festivals and Events.
- Residential and Commercial Development in the upland area would help to pay for public amenities and environmental remediation.

### **Next Steps**

The LMS Board will be reviewing the ideas to determine the best way to take your ideas to the design charrette. The planning process should begin soon, most likely early in 2017. Participation will be open to the entire community, and LMS members are encouraged to get involved.