

We're welcoming warmer, longer days, and seeing friendly faces returning that have been away. This is an exciting time with lots to do and get involved with! Our 2018 brochure with fabulous cover by Caroline Scagel is now circulating around island and on BC Ferries. If you need brochures, please let us know.

Our AGM will be 6pm on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Studio 652 (the house at 652 Fernhill Rd.). Our bylaws state that we need 12 members present for quorum, so we ask that you please attend. It will be a short meeting with delicious treats by Sue Duncan. For just a tiny portion of your day, you can vote to have your say, take a tasty treat off the tray, and then say goodbye and be on your way.

Regarding board members, the Chamber is looking to top up our board to at least 8 members, which means 2-4 more people are needed to help us continue Chamber work. "What kind of work?" you ask? The good news is that the work load is incredibly light. In the past two years, much of the work done by the board has been passed onto either the Executive Officer, or the Destination BC marketing consortium. The Executive Officer now deals with website maintenance, invoices, brochures, and general communications, while the Marketing Consortium does most of our marketing. "What does this leave for the board to do?" you may be wondering. Mostly, it means coming to bi-monthly evening meetings, which run for 1-2 hours. At these meetings, issues affecting island businesses may be presented for discussion and action (ex. the last meeting had the speculation tax on the agenda), project funding may be discussed, and correspondence presented. Board members also help with our annual spaghetti dinner, and serve as contact points in the community for business information.

Some background: the Mayne Island Chamber isn't just a tourism organization, though this is a focus because tourism is a large part of island businesses. We're also here to serve as a voice for the business community. Our draft mission statement is: "[The Chamber] shall promote and improve trade and commerce as well as the economic, civic, and social welfare of the region." We want to cultivate an organization that provides value, and opportunities for our members; serve as an advocate for Mayne Island businesses; and support tourism directly and indirectly through Chamber activities. Additionally, through responsible management of funds, the Chamber is financially secure, and we look forward to using funds to support island businesses.

We sincerely hope you will consider becoming a member of our board. If you have any questions, please ask! Current board members are: Toby Snelgrove, Brian Dearden, Sharon Hinton, Sue Duncan, Bill McCance, Kat Ferneyhough, and Colleen Fraser; any of whom would be happy to answer your questions. If you are interested in joining the board, please let us know through email ([executiveofficer@mayneislandchamber.ca](mailto:executiveofficer@mayneislandchamber.ca)) or phone (250-507-5321). Looking forward to seeing you at our AGM, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm!