



Denman Conservancy Association

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 60, Denman Island, B.C. V0R 1T0

February 2009

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**of DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION
will take place**

7:30 pm on Monday, March 23, 2009

in the **Back Hall of the Denman Community Hall**

The AGM business will include:

- ❖ The Directors' Report, Treasurer's Report, Committee Reports
- ❖ A discussion of the desirability of obtaining Grants from the BC Gaming Commission
- ❖ Election of Directors
- ❖ A presentation on the rare meadow species inhabiting DCA lands

West Coast Environmental Law

Along with this Newsletter you will have received an appeal for your support from West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL). DCA received invaluable financial assistance from the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund of WCEL throughout the legal case against 4064 Investments that was finally resolved in 2005. Beyond directly assisting DCA, the work of WCEL is held in highest esteem in the Province.

DCA asks that Denman supporters, who are able to do so, seriously consider contributing to WCEL. DCA has adopted this method of assisting WCEL with their appeal because DCA will not provide its own membership information to any other party, however deserving.

Lindsay-Dickson Conservation Covenant

On 15th October 2008 Conservation Covenants in favour of DCA were registered on the titles of the Lindsay-Dickson Nature Reserve. This provides a last layer of protection of the natural values of these lands. Agreement of the Agricultural Land Commission had to be obtained to place the covenant on the part of the Reserve that is within the ALR. Although the Old Growth Forest adjacent to East Road is on Agricultural Land the Commission allowed full protection (precluding agriculture) on that part of the Reserve, because of the natural values of that forest stand.

Saving the Lindsay-Dickson Forest was one of the initial projects of the Denman Conservancy Association when it was formed in 1990. Years of fundraising, negotiating, (frustration) and advocacy ensued. The Reserve was finally acquired by the Islands Trust Fund in 2001.

Grant for DCA Property Guides

Coastal Community Credit Union has made a grant to DCA through their Coastal Spirit Fund to prepare and print guides to the DCA properties that are open to public access. The project is called 'Walks on Denman.' The brochures will have maps and information for each of four properties where there are public trails. The brochures should be available by summer.

Contributors to this Newsletter: Jenny, John, Patrick, Carol, Patti, Annie.

The Conservancy Garden Tour is on again:

A Call For Volunteers

As the days grow longer and warmer our thoughts turn to spring activities. Released from winter's torpor our life force rises like maple sap and searches for focus--digging over garden beds, starting seeds, washing windows, removing clutter. Where else can one apply this glorious energy?

VOLUNTEERING TO AID THE HOME & GARDEN TOUR!!

The 2009 extravaganza is slated for Mother's Day weekend, May 9 and 10. DCA is looking for hundreds of communitarians young and old to help in putting on the party. Will you be one?

We're looking for folks to:

- Help home and garden owners prepare for the public; weeding, cleaning, making garden markers, etc.
- Pot up plants in preparation for the plant sale
- Deal with traffic; parking cars, aiding tour goers to arrive and leave smoothly from tour sites
- Take tickets at tour stops (three hour shifts)
- Work in the kitchen and lunchroom serving food, bussing tables, washing dishes, decorating the Community Hall
- Talk up the Tour! Denman's Home and Garden Tour is reputed to be one of the finest in the Gulf Islands.

Now that we've switched to a biennial rotation the next tour won't take place until spring, 2011. Don't miss out!

Purchase tickets. Beginning April 1st three Denman outlets will have tickets: Abraxas Books, Denman Craft Shop and the General Store.

The Doug Olstead Award for 2008

Congratulations to Jori Phillips; she is the 2008 recipient of the **Doug Olstead Award** for volunteering on Denman Island. **Jori** can be seen in the "Reusable Store" at Recycle. Join us in congratulating Jori at the AGM on **March 23rd in the Back Hall at 7:30 p.m.**

Remember to attend the
DCA Annual General Meeting
7:30 pm on Monday, March 23, 2009
Back Hall

2009

Annual General Meeting What's New?

The Board has taken steps during the past year to properly manage the substantial additional responsibilities DCA has assumed.

This year, at the AGM, the Treasurer will present a budget as well as the usual statement of accounts and a report on the fundraising campaign for Central Park.

For the Settlement Lands we will be preparing Management Plans during the forthcoming year. We will be asking for your input. The Central Park Management Plan is well along and the Plan will soon be out for discussion.

BC Gaming Commission grant

For the year 2008 – 2009 DCA applied for and has received funds as a Direct Access Grant for operating expenses from the BC Gaming Commission. This grant enables DCA to employ a part-time Land Manager without drawing heavily on donated funds.

There are very few other granting agencies that will support non-profit organizations by supplying operating funds on a continuing basis. However the Board of DCA was not unanimous in agreeing to accept this grant. Members of the Board recognized that the Gaming Commission derives its funds from lotteries and other gambling operations in the Province, and the Board was uncertain whether the membership would be comfortable with this particular source of funding.

While this year's grant is being spent, the Board is inviting members to offer their views at the AGM (or by contacting any director) as to whether DCA should apply again this year for a continuation of the funding.

DCA's New Web Page address

In mid 2008 DCA changed its web page address to

www.denmanconservancy.org.

See also the DCA Blog with its fairly frequent updates at

<http://denmanconservancy.blogspot.com>

for photos and notes about Nature on Denman Island.

Residents are invited to join this blog and post their own observations.

Garden Tour Participants/2009

Toby and Mikell Callahan
Gale and Judy Stephen
John and Linda Mather
Yoshi and Susan-Marie Yoshihara
Jimmy Tait
Veronica Timmons
John Tallerino and Marc Randall
Jack Mounce and Jean Cockburn
Andrew Fyson and Robert Newton
The Chocolate Factory

DCA's Rare Meadow Species Stewardship Program

The DCA with the support of Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program is completing the first year of the Rare Meadow Species Stewardship Program. Valuable data on Denman's rare species, listed as endangered, threatened and special concern has been collected. Stewards, owners of meadows, have been very supportive! Once more stewardship plaques, with the added "Meadow Habitat Steward" designation, will be gracing our island. In addition, the DCA has applied for funding to continue this project through 2009.

Closure

Transactions arising from the settlement of the legal case against 4064 Investments Ltd. were finally concluded at the end of 2008 when a receipt was issued by DCA to one of the companies having interests in the Northlands properties on Denman Island. The receipt was for the appraised value of the two residential densities attached to the two parcels of land known as The Settlement Lands. Under the Agreement made on 9 September, 2005 to settle the legal case these densities were available to Northlands to be transferred to other lands under their ownership, providing that the transfer took place by December 31, 2008. Such transfer was subject to the approval of the Islands Trust. As that approval had not been obtained by year's end, a receipt for the value of the densities was issued by DCA, the densities remaining with the land owned by DCA.

It has been a long haul for the dedicated members of the Legal Committee since DCA filed a Writ of Summons and a Statement of Claim in the Supreme Court of British Columbia on June 25, 2002.

And, it was longer for some of those members who in 1997 began assisting 4064 Investments Ltd. to fulfill its contractual obligations to place covenants on the Railway Marsh and Komas Bluffs, obligations which were not completed by 4064, resulting in the legal case. The entire case history can be read on the DCA web site:

www.denmanconservancy.org

Garry oak and coastal meadow's rare fern:
Coastal Wood Fern *Dryopteris arguta*



Other Rare Meadow Species:

Woodland meadow's
**Common Wood Nymph
*Cercyonis pegala incana***



Domestic Animals On Conservation Lands

DCA is aware that many people enjoy walking their dogs on the public trails in Central Park and also on trails in other conservation lands such as the Morrison Marsh and Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserves. For many Denman residents these are very long established activities. The owner of these Nature Reserves (and Inner Island N.R.) is the Islands Trust Fund (ITF). DCA manages these lands under contract to ITF.

In negotiating the Management Plan with ITF the question of animals in the Nature Reserves had to be addressed. ITF normally insists on 'dogs on a leash' rules for their properties but for Denman they agreed to 'dogs under control' by their owners. Horses are not permitted on Nature Reserves. When dogs are allowed to run, not under control of their owners, both people passing by and the native wildlife may be threatened or endangered.

Some reports were received in the past year of dogs not being under control in lands under management by DCA. Dog owners should be aware that too many such incidents will likely result in more limitations being placed on the freedom of the public to enjoy these properties. Persons encountering dogs not under control on DCA managed lands are requested to report the incident to our Land Manager Andrew Fyson (335 9047) or to any Director of DCA.

There are some locations in the Nature Reserves, Central Park and the Railway Grade Marsh where waterfowl nesting may be jeopardised by disturbance. DCA will be monitoring these locations and may find it necessary to impose site-specific seasonal restrictions on public access.

As noted above horses are not permitted in Nature Reserves, but DCA is accommodating riding horses on specific trails in Central Park. The existing trail through Central Park to Pickles Road transits the Inner Island Nature Reserve. DCA would like to upgrade this trail to allow horses on this route. In order to meet ITF's 'no horses' rule the section through Inner Island Reserve has to be relocated to stay within the Crown Land until it exits on to Pickles Road. A possible relocation route has been flagged.

Central Park

Recent sunny weather has been great for taking walks. We're encouraged to see that Central Park is being used by walkers, bicyclists and equestrians. This winter the Central Park Committee spent many an evening together to work on the Management Plan for Central Park. They are happy to report that it is nearly complete and look forward to sharing it with the public. The plan provides short and long term guidance for managing public use of the park, reflecting the expressed wishes of the community, while protecting its environmental attributes.

Last fall Steve Isaak started work on the northern section of Pickles Road Trail. Alas the rains prevailed and the job could not be completed. We will get back to this work as soon as conditions permit, but we ask for your patience in the meantime for your safety as well as to prevent ecological damage by keeping horses and bikes off this part of the trail and walking through only when safe to do so.

Shortly the call will go out to volunteers to help with trail improvements and cleanup. As well we will construct a boardwalk across Central Swale. The water level did not drop there last summer as it had in the past so we need to re-engineer our design to complete this project funded by a grant from Mountain Equipment Co-Op. If you want to lend a hand sometime give us a call. (Annie 2762 or Denise 1608). In the meanwhile, go enjoy yourself by taking a jaunt through Central Park.

Walks and Talks

Arranged by Patrick Fawkes

Our spring season begins with the talk by John Tayless on **March 7: Spring Plankton & Herring Old School Conservancy Room 10 am**

Upcoming:

- March 14 Gulls & Other Water birds by Mike Morrell Old School 10.30 am
- March 28 Bird Houses by Peter Karsten
- April: Tree Island Walk with Andrew Fyson

In May will be 'Birds and their Songs' with Jenny Balke and Patrick Fawkes

Watch for notice of details in the Grapevine.

Membership

DCA now has **280** paid up members, a new high for us! People on island and off have been generous. In our annual appeal for funds donors of \$10.00 or more received a tax receipt and also a membership. Thank you all so much.