



Denman Conservancy Association

NEWSLETTER

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

October 2009

Central Park Update

Thanks to a generous grant from Mountain Equipment Coop to assist with trail development and the construction of a boardwalk in Central Park AND to the great efforts by many volunteers we are happy to tell you that there is now a boardwalk crossing Central Swale linking Swale Trail with Beaufort View Path. Enormous thanks to Bruce Holden and Gordon Hobsen who did the major grunt work to build the base for the boardwalk and to many volunteers. More recently the trail between the west side of the boardwalk and Beaufort View Path was mapped out and developed by more hardworking volunteers. They cleared the route and placed small logs along the sides.

For building the boardwalk and trail we owe our gratitude to volunteers Bruce Holden, Tim Fuchs, John Lane, Tony Carrigan, Boyd MacKean, John Millen, Dave Steele, Dennis Lavalley, Denise MacKean, Annie Corddry, visitor Randy Lord, Yoshi Yoshihara, Keith Porteous, Charlie Johnston, Carroll Taylor-Lindoe, Andrew Fyson, and Sonya Edelston. We'd also like to thank Peter Janes for permitting the use of his driveway while we worked on the boardwalk and trail. It is heartwarming to have the support of the community as we work towards fulfilling plans for Central Park.

The boardwalk is for pedestrian use only and is accessible from Swale Trail which starts at North Central Road as well as from Beaufort View Path. We ask that you stay on the marked paths and keep your dogs under control. We especially do not want dogs disturbing the wetlands, so please use a leash if that's what it takes with your dog.

Photo by Ginny Thornton



Earlier in the summer volunteers worked on Pickles Road Trail in the northwest corner of the park to make the trail safe for use by horses and bicyclists as well as pedestrians. Bruce again led the way with Josh Vandale by splitting on-site cedar into planks and making a cribbing for fill. Nearby fill was moved by Ray Ulevic (backhoe) and an army of wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes wielded by Jackie Ward, Charlie Johnston, Wendy Pope, Carroll Taylor-Lindoe, Annie Corddry, as well as Bruce, Josh and visiting cousin Alex. This trail links with the Crown Land to the Northwest of the park. We ask that visitors please use good judgment about using this trail if it looks too wet.

The kiosk near the main entry to the Park was built by Bob Vosburgh. It is used to display maps of the trails. We always welcome your feedback or reports of trail hazards. Trail development and maintenance is the work of volunteers so we request your patience as we continue this work. Please let us know if you want to be added to our volunteers list.

The Management Plan for Central Park prepared by the Central Park Committee is being reviewed and, once adopted by the DCA Board it will be available for public viewing at the Dora Drinkwater Library.

Cemetery Progress

On October 19 the DCA Board agreed on the boundaries of the one hectare parcel that will be offered to the Denman Island Memorial Society and on arrangements to apply to the Agricultural Land Commission to exempt that property from the Agricultural Land Reserve. A meeting of members of DCA will be held to consider the transfer of the land.

Denman Conservancy Association
is thrilled to announce that the

Central Park Purchase is Complete

we invite you to come out and celebrate with us.

It's true. Thanks to your generosity the mortgage was paid off two years ahead of schedule! The fund raising committee wishes to thank everyone who donated and who participated in our fund raising efforts. This purchase was funded largely through your donations and by fundraising events such as the Home and Garden Tour.

You are invited to a
Mortgage Burning Potluck
Please come and celebrate with us on
Sunday, October 25 at 6 pm
At The back hall

A little history: Just three years ago in September of 2006 DCA was able to purchase the 147 acres we now call Central Park. The acquisitions committee of DCA had previously identified this property as a priority for purchase. Much credit is due to board member Denise MacKean. Acting decisively, she took the plunge and bought this spectacular chunk of Denman's natural beauty. She offered the property to the DCA at her cost with an interest-free loan to be paid off over 5 years. On March 27, 2006 the board took this offer to the membership who approved it enthusiastically.

If you go walking through Central Park today you'll still see the remnants of the extensive logging that took place in the late '90s. You'll also witness the inspiring power of nature to regenerate, of the land to heal itself. On the human front, the Central Park committee and many volunteers have made and maintained trails, provided signage, and constructed boardwalks. We can now walk or ride from the Old School to Pickles Road, away from traffic and noise.

Central Park is about to become a leading example of conservation groups working with community to care for the dead in a sustainable way. If the DCA membership agrees, a 2 acre portion of the southeast corner of Central Park will become a natural burial ground, one of the first in BC. This project is being led by the newly-formed Denman Island Memorial Society. While it might be the appropriate place to bury the mortgage, I for one can't resist the satisfying feeling of symbolically commending the debt to the flames in the Hall woodstove.

Burial or immolation, help us lay the debt to rest and celebrate a heart-warming community effort as we share food and drink.

This Newsletter was produced by:
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www.denmanconservancy.org



DCA's Annual Fundraising

Our supporters have been mailed our annual fundraising request. We are more dependent than ever for your support this year in the absence of funding from Provincial Government sources. Conservation of the Environment has been assigned a low priority in Victoria.