



# Denman Conservancy Association

# NEWSLETTER

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

February 2008

## Calling All Teen Volunteers!

Denman Conservancy (DCA) appeals to Parents to engage your teenaged student to volunteer on Denman and then to apply in a letter for the two hundred dollar award given each year. In March 2005, the Denman Conservancy Association established an award in the name of Doug Olstead to honour and thank him for his generous contribution to Denman Island and in particular to DCA.

At the Annual General Meeting of DCA, in March 2006, the first "Doug Olstead Award" of **two hundred dollars (\$200)** was given to Robin Michin for his volunteer work at Recycle. Unfortunately, no student has applied for this award since then.

Volunteer opportunities abound on Denman; assist a "not for profit" group such as: Concerts Denman, The Seniors, DCA with Walks and Talks or trail building, Marine Stewardship with beach clean up, help a senior or a shut-in for free, or work at Recycle. These are just some suggestions. Scholastic excellence is not a primary factor to apply for this award.

Any interested student or a person knowing a student whose name should be brought to the attention of DCA should do so in writing before Dec. 31, 2008 to Box 60 Denman Island, B.C. V0R 1T0 or contact Carol Freeman for further information -2535.

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**March 3rd 8:00 p.m. in the Back Hall.** See you there. Renew your membership, ask questions, and offer ideas. As always, the Board relies on the ideas, energy and enthusiasm of the general membership. If you are interested in joining the Board, please call Denise Mackean

## What! No Home and Garden Tour in 2008?

It's true! There will be no Home and Garden Tour in 2008. But don't be upset--the tour will be back in 2009. This event has been going non-stop for 17 years and needs some refocusing to stay current. Our plan is to take this next summer off to re-think, re-new and re-launch the amazing Denman Island Home and Garden Tour.

The tour was started all those years ago to raise money for the purchase of the Inner Island Nature Reserve and the Lindsay-Dickson Forest. Literally thousands of volunteers have participated in this fabulous and famous fund-raiser, supported by gardeners and nature lovers on Denman Island and as far afield as Japan. Over the years the tour has provided many thousands of dollars to fund projects and purchases by DCA. We honour the contributions of all the gardeners, volunteers and co-coordinators whose efforts have made our Tour a delightful experience and an effective fund-raiser.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, all those who contributed to the DCA's Home and Garden Tour can feel quite proud. Garden tours have become very popular since our tour began. Our tour is clearly among the best but there is still a lot of competition for gardeners' attention. Ferry fares are rising to new, dizzying heights and are starting to scare off tour goers. In recent years we have depended on the same few gardeners to be the mainstays of the tour. This year two of those wonderful spaces will not be available to us. That felt like a sign that something needed to change. When we decided not to have the tour this year we didn't know that a much smaller ferry would be replacing the Quinitsa until June at the earliest. Given the history of this ferry not returning to service as scheduled, it makes even more sense to take this year off. Are we psychic or what?

What would you like to see in 2009? More vegetable gardens? Green building techniques? Designer outhouses? Want to be on the Tour in 2009? We very much value and welcome your input and want to hear from you! Please contact LeeAndra Jacobs at -1802 or write to the DCA fund-raising committee at Box 60, Denman Island, B.C. V0R 1T0

## Fundraising Update

DCA has been making fabulous progress in raising the funds necessary to meet our main objective, paying for Central Park. Our work began in earnest March 2006 when Conservancy's membership unanimously approved acquisition of the 147-acre property. In less than two years we've staged two letter-writing campaigns, two garden tours, a gala evening of entertainment headlined by Todd Butler with a silent auction, an evening with Robert Bateman and a woven rug raffle. We've received funds through the Boxall bequest, the Forestry Cooperative's gift, memberships, sales of T-shirts, jewellery, maps, the Fall Faire book sale, and the many donations directed to DCA from supporters near and far. Several of our friends and families have made thoughtful gifts to us through contributions to Conservancy.

**Payment Review:** The initial payment of \$298,000 was made in September 2006. Our first mortgage payment of \$40,000 was made in April 2007 and we have the funds to pay the next one in April 2008. We'll then have three more payments of \$40,000 each to go, the mortgage being completely paid in April, 2011 at which time we'll be retiring in Aruba—just kidding! Seriously folks, your responses to our solicitations have warmed our hearts and kept our spirits going. The task feels huge but you have come forward with volunteer energy, money, donations of goods, and THOUSANDS of hours. We thrive on the support of kind people such as you.

## Morrison Marsh Update

DCA has been awarded the management contract for the Island Trust Fund owned **Morrison Marsh Covenant Area**. We have the responsibility to administer the property according to the management plan created in mid 2007. As part of the immediate tasks to be undertaken, DCA will be preparing an access to the property at the end of Greenhill Road and posting signs alerting of possible danger areas. A work bee to mark the trail is in the

early planning stage, more to come ... Watch the Grapevine.

Technically, those who use the existing path are trespassing on two private properties. For the present, the owners are not protesting... DCA will in the next few months be constructing a path that lies entirely within the conservation area. For now, please tread lightly on the trail from Greenhill Road, especially on the first 400 metres or so.

## DATES TO SAVE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**March 1, Saturday morning, 10 – 12** in the Conservancy Room in the Old School. **John Tayless** will talk about Herring, Plankton, and Sea Lions.

**March 21, Friday**, DCA will be serving the treats at **Ian Tamblyn** Concert at the Denman Community Hall. Tamblyn has played in local, national, and international folk music scenes since the 1970s. This powerful multi-instrumentalist and accomplished lyricist/vocalist was nominated in the 'best solo artist' category at the 2007 Canadian Folk Music Awards. Don't miss this terrific evening!

**June 14, Saturday**. Celebrate with DCA the beginning of summer with a special evening including a gourmet dinner, prepared by several super Denman Island chefs. There will be some; soon-to-be-announced, fun and exciting after dinner entertainment you won't want to miss.

Thanks to Lee Andra Jacobs, J Thornton, Susan-Marie Yoshihara, Carol Freeman and Mikell Callahan for their contributions to this issue of the newsletter.