

Flagstone, July 2007

Central Park Planning Process

Biking, walking or driving along Denman Road you may have noticed a sign opposite the Old School announcing Central Park. Denman Conservancy has owned this 147 acre parcel for over a year and not much has changed except that trees are growing apace. So in good "Denman Time" we are starting to formulate a stewardship plan for the area. This could be anything from letting nature take its course to a myriad of uses that are compliant with Conservancy's mandate which is fairly inclusive.

Therefore, we are inviting public input where everyone can be involved in the process. Obviously in such an endeavor we cannot please all of the people all of the time, but also we may unearth some unusual thoughts and will attempt to take the pulse of the island. DCA has hoped this area would be useful for uniting human needs with restoration and conservation goals.

To this end, we are starting a process of public consultation with a neighbours' meeting in June. In July we urge you to walk the existing trails, fill out a questionnaire and offer suggestions you may have. This will be followed in August by an open meeting of all interested parties. Early in July we will announce a list of dates of guided walks throughout the month and will make maps and questionnaires available in the Conservancy box at the General Store. Everyone is welcome to take one of these maps/question sheets and either join a walk or go it alone.

Our fondest hope is that we will discover a few individuals committed enough to join a group to draw up a stewardship plan based on input which will be as wide ranging as possible. We urge everyone to take the time to visit the property, walk a lot or a little and fill in the questionnaire at the very least. However, attending the August meeting would turn this into a real community effort so be on the lookout for a time, date and place.

Submitted by Denise MacKean