

GRAPEVINE January 2001

submitted by Denise MacKean

This month we got two for the price of one - a regular meeting and our Annual General! Some of the first was spent planning the second. However, the OCP Housing section as well as island hunting were discussed and our views on housing were sent to the Trustees while we are hoping DIRA will be tackling the hunt. Lake Road Property committee reported on fund raising to date and we moved that the remainder, perhaps \$3,000, be paid off by Conservancy allowing us to concentrate on "Big Chickadee". It also encourages us to form a committee, make some management decisions and weigh the pros and cons of our ownership versus some other conservation group.

Very good news; we received a grant from Environment Canada's EcoAction program for \$20,000 to be used in putting together covenants for Morrison Marsh South which adjoins Boyle Point Park. The owner is willing to let the public use walking trails on large parts of this 156acre property and is cooperating in placing covenants. It can be a costly business to survey and make them legally binding so this help is welcome.

Our AGM welcomed Patrick Fawkes and John Millen to the Board. We also have a new committee to oversee the Lake Road Property. They would love to hear from interested community members who can help when work is needed. It is good to have a willing body accompany ideas - we need both.

Other committee reports and the year's run-down of events were presented by Juan Barker and have been covered in this space before. As of Jan. 1, 2001 your Millennium Memberships expired so should be renewed; 76 people have already done so. These dues go towards administrative expenses.

We would like to thank Jenny Balke for her tireless conservation efforts as a Board member. She will surely be carrying on with many projects but stepped down from the Board. We want, once again, to thank you for the generous donations that made the Lake Road Property possible. You're a great bunch!



Denman Conservancy Association February 2001

Preparations for the annual house and Garden Tour are underway. Coordinators are Leslie Dunsmore and deNeen Baldwin. This year funds raised will go towards the purchase fund for the 80 acre Chickadee Lake parcel.

In response to the request for availability of DCA records, Concha will put a binder in the Dora Drinkwater Library containing financial statements, the constitution and other records of the Association.

The Covenant Committee has met with Mike Jenks and discussed the Komas Bluffs covenant. They also discussed the acquisition of the Chickadee Lake parcel. Mike Jenks said he was interested in any form of swap or purchase. Proposal packages for help in funding the purchase have been sent by DCA to both Federal and Provincial governments.

We plan to hold an Earth day (April 22) walk from Fillongly Park, along Denman and Pickles roads to the Lake Road parcel recently purchased by DCA.

A schedule for this season's Workshops and Field Trips has been published in the March issue of the Flagstone.



Conservancy News March 2001

submitted by John Millen

Mapping of natural values of Morrison Marsh South is progressing well using GPS. Mike Morrell is coordinating the mapping. Half the grant for this purpose (\$10,000) has now been received from Ecoaction. Mapping is a first step in establishing the protective covenant for this property.

DCA has received a letter from Mike Jenks indicating a strong intent to co-operate in negotiations towards Conservancy's purchase of the Chickadee Lake 80 acre property.

The first Conservancy Field Trip of the season was declared a success by the 10 persons who turned out with kayaks to paddle across Lambert Channel to view the sea lions. About 500 sealions, both Californian and Stellas put on a magnificent show for their visitors.

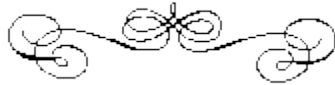
A big thank-you to the 18 people who came and helped plant trees around the mouth of Valens Brook.

Earthday Walk

Everyone is invited to join us for the Earthday (April 22) walk from Fillongly Park along Denman and Pickles roads to the recently purchased Conservancy site on Lake Road. The walk is 8 kilometers. We will start at 10 am. Participants are asked to bring lunches. DCA will provide some refreshments at the Lake Road site. Non-walkers are invited to join us after we arrive at the site to see our new property dressed in its spring colours.

Lindsay Dickson Forest
(A cat with nine lives?)

Negotiations between the provincial Government and the owners of this property for a land swap to preserve the Lindsay/Dickson forest have been progressing. In the meantime, landowner Schellinck has ceased logging at the head of Mallard Road.



Denman Conservancy report to the Grapevine 12 April 2001

submitted by Des Kennedy

By now most islanders will have heard that the Lindsay-Dickson Forest has at long last been saved! After twelve years of heavy slogging and innumerable disappointments, this is a day that we'd almost given up dreaming would ever dawn. Those of us who've worked on the project are still a bit numb. Six weeks ago we had accepted the painful reality that the 134-acre forest would be lost to logging and development. Magnificent Douglas firs were already falling, as they have been on so much else of the island. But islanders rallied yet one more time and the resultant publicity finally pushed the deal to completion. Now, with a deal signed, there's a mounting sense of relief as we realize that this very special place, though battered and bruised, will remain forever in its natural state as an ecological reserve in the Islands Trust Fund.

Our relief, however, is tempered by the fact that the lands exchanged for Lindsay Dickson are on Quadra Island. This is a waterfront parcel of second-growth hemlock forest owned by Timber West that has been for sale for about four years. Denman Conservancy was alarmed upon learning that the province was considering using these lands as part of the exchange, and immediately communicated our concerns to Crown Lands, who were bartering the deal. We expressed a desire not to export a Denman problem to Quadra and urged that, if this deal were to proceed, certain safeguards for the Quadra community be built into it. As well, we contacted Quadra Conservancy and have since then met with them and other island representatives. From our point of view, the preservation of the Lindsay-Dickson forest will be a full victory only if the Quadra Island community's concerns are taken into account. We have urged both the Province and the Schellincks to do everything possible to ensure that these concerns are satisfactorily addressed, and it appears as though this can and will be the case.

Certainly some heartfelt thanks are in order. First we would like to thank the provincial government for its foresight in ensuring that the Lindsay-Dickson forest was saved. We particularly appreciate the leadership of former Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, Moe Sihota, and current Minister, Ian Waddell. Special thanks to former MLA Margaret Lord and current MLA Evelyn Gillespie. Staff at Crown Lands worked doggedly and against all odds to find a way of making this happen and their work is much appreciated. Our local trustees have been immensely supportive over the years, as has our area director Roxanna Mandryk. Thanks to all the organizations, groups and individuals from around the region who lent their voices in support of this initiative, especially the Comox and Sliammon Indian Bands, The Nature

Conservancy of Canada, B.C. Nature Trust, B.C. Federation of Naturalists, Comox-Strathcona Regional District, Comox Valley Environmental Council, IWA Local 1-363 along with many others.

Finally, and most especially, we would like to thank the wonderful community of Denman Island. For the last 12 years you have stood fast in your dedication to the Lindsay-Dickson Project. You have written hundreds of letters, made thousands of phone calls, raised money and answered appeals to action each time the need arose. You did so with consideration and respect toward all involved, and today all British Columbians reap the reward of your efforts. With island forests being systematically dismantled all around us, Lindsay-Dickson stands as one small but hugely important victory. Next up: Chickadee Lake.



Conservancy Notes, May 2001

submitted by John Millen

Lindsay - Dickson: The Conservancy Board has agreed to contribute \$75 000 to the Provincial Government towards their purchase of the Lindsay Dickson property. This is substantially less than had been previously provided for, freeing some DCA funds to go towards the purchase and preservation of additional land on Denman Island.

Earthday On April 22, about 30 people walked between Lindsay Dickson and the Conservancy's recent Lake Road purchase, to celebrate the two acquisitions. The **Home and Garden Tour**, June 16 & 17, will identify both of these properties on the ticket for our visitors.

The **Salish Sea** mapping project has resulted in a booklet containing the six colourful maps, copies of which have been deposited with the Library, the Museum and the Community School.

The Conservancy was pleased to support the nomination of **Denman Chocolates** for the Mountain Equipment Co-op Ethics in Business Award. Denman Chocolates has been a constant and valued contributor to DCA's funds for purchase of properties for conservation.

Jenny Balke is congratulated for her leadership and conservation work which has been recognized by the presentation by BC Environment and Fisheries Urban Salmon Habitat Program of their 2001 Appreciation Award "In recognition of the DCA for the Stewardship of Denman Island Streams."



CONSERVANCY NOTES, 31 May 2001

submitted by John Millen

Your humble messenger reluctantly brings the news that the closing of the Lindsay/Dickson land sale has been postponed to June 12. We are assured there are no reasons for concern, just a technicality... The DCA Board has however decided that a celebratory event should not take place before the sale transaction has closed.

Richard Martin has started a biological survey of the Conservancy's recently acquired property on Lake Road. He has so far identified over 90 species for the bio-inventory. The property will be a featured visitor stop on the Home and Garden Tour scheduled for 16th and 17th of June.

The kayak trip to Tree Island on May 12th was enjoyed by a dozen people. The Spring flowers were well appreciated.

The Islands mapping project of last year has culminated in a travelling display called "Islands of the Salish Sea". This art show will be at the Art Gallery on Denman at the end of August and over the Labour Day weekend. Posters and sets of printed cards of the Denman maps are available at the Craft Shop.



CONSERVANCY NOTES, 26 July 2001

submitted by John Millen

The Lindsay Dickson Property is finally securely in the hands of The Islands Trust Fund and will be known as the Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve. The next step is preparation of a Management Plan for the property. Denman Island public will be consulted before the plan is finalized.

Our Legacy Project has focussed on getting the Association into a position to purchase the 80 acre parcel surrounding the East side of Chickadee Lake. Fundraising is ongoing. To gain support from funding agencies we also need a strong representation of the Island's population in our membership. Current paid membership in the Association is 91. We will be wanting to sign up more of you. We will have a sign-up desk at the Recycle Depot on Saturday August 4th and also on the Porch of the General Store that weekend.

This year's Denman Conservancy Association - David Fraser Bursary was awarded by the North Island College Foundation to Jennifer Waller of the Comox Valley Campus.



Denman Conservancy, Grapevine August 30, 2001

submitted by Denise MacKean

The August meeting of Conservancy Board was well attended considering it's summer time! Maybe the cold weather had us fooled. The Home and Garden Tour reported a net intake of \$14,835, which is about average although less than last year due mainly to having printed fewer tickets. Expenses remain nearly the same. So all those wonderful volunteers deserve another pat on the back because that is the major consistent income we have. Thank you Denman.

Can you believe it was just one year ago the Lake Road property came on the market? I hope folks have been up to visit it this summer either on their own or with visitors. Peter Karston's Nature Trail is still there and feedback has been very positive. In general visitors to the site have been respectful and caring about what we are trying to do to lessen impact on that corner of the lake. We appreciate that. A more formal management plan is in the works.

The Denman Island Marine Stewardship Committee asked us to consider shellfish culture on our shoreline and perhaps submit our views of present activity and the future planning proposals to the appropriate authorities. We will look at their material and go from there.

We spent some time going over the future management of the Lindsay-Dickson property now held by the Islands Trust Fund. Conservancy is considering taking on management duties and working out a management plan with the Trust Fund. It seems prudent to keep these duties close to home. We will keep you apprised of this project, as it will require public input at some point - maybe in conjunction with a wee celebration!

Two dates to circle on your calendar: the exhibit of the Salish Sea mapping project in the gallery at the Seniors' Hall Aug.31 - Sept. 4 and sale of Memberships at the Fall Fair Sept. 2. We are up to 135 members so far and you can help push us over 200! Both events should be fun - see you there.



Denman Conservancy Notes, 27 September 2001

submitted by John Millen

Pickles Road: The bureaucratic SNAFU of the moment is that the agency which would decide on a road through the Pickles Road Crown Land block is not, as we were advised, the Ministry of Forests. It turns out they don't have any say in the use of that land. The British Columbia Assets and Land Corporation (BCALC) are the Jonnies on this spot. Now don't panic. All those letters you wrote are being forwarded to the BCALC office.

As I write this, BCALC had not received an application. If an application is received (by BCALC) it will be referred to the Islands Trust Local Committee for their input.

The Conservancy truly appreciates the work of the ad hoc 'Last Stand' committee on behalf of the community.

Chickadee Lake 80 acre parcel: The Islands Trust Fund has agreed to be a partner with us on the Chickadee block acquisition and is seeking additional sources of funds to help with the purchase. Our Project Partners now include: Islands Trust Fund; Nature Conservancy of Canada and The Land Conservancy of British Columbia.

Home and Garden Tour: We have selected June 22 - 23, 2002 as the weekend for next year's Home and Garden Tour. That is easy to remember, its the weekend of the summer solstice.

Our current membership is 165. If you have not had the opportunity to pay your membership for the current year perhaps you will drop by our booth at the Christmas Craft Faire.

