



# Denman Conservancy Association

# NEWSLETTER

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

June 2005

## Home & Garden Tour

On June 18 & 19 Denman Conservancy will host our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Home and Garden Tour. Our Tour is renowned for the relaxed, friendly atmosphere of the Island and the unique homes and landscapes.

Amazing rose collections will be found on this year's Tour in the exquisite gardens of Sudasi & Swann Gardner, Joan & Roger Vinnedge, and Sandy & Des Kennedy. After a few year's absence from the Tour, Glenn & Linda Pollitt, Mikell & Tobey Callahan and Harlene Holm will open their gates once again. On display are artful gates, xeriscaping against drought and the sea and some new custom-designed additions.

New to the Tour this year is Mark Prior and Mitra Ghaffari's wonderful oceanview property on East Road. With the help of a local designer, and after a 6-month flurry of activity, these 2 artists have completely renovated their home and property.

The homestead of Des and Sandy Kennedy has been a popular attraction every year. The Kennedys built their home, more than 30 years ago in the 'back to the land' era, using recycled and hand-hewn materials. (But they have recently been renovating extensively; this year it's the roof.) A covered deck adjacent to their large pond, is where you will probably find Des on the Tour days.

Joan & David Scruton will open their beautiful custom-built home, furniture workshop, and refurbished barn with a full collection of farm animals, vegetable and fruit beds and a 100' long rose-clematis curved pergola.

Ella Day's home with its curving lines sited atop the high waterfront Komas Bluff also returns this year. Here you weave through the forest past stunning flower gardens, gentle pavilions for healing the body

and soul, organic vegetable plots, a Japanese stone garden, and water features.

The idyllic retreat created by Jean Cockburn and Jack Mounce, nestled amongst Douglas firs and only a few feet from the sea, is an oasis of gentle colour, simplicity and peace.



Jack Mounce and Jean Cockburn's curved bridge crosses a stream near the kitchen herb garden.

*photo by Doug Olstead*

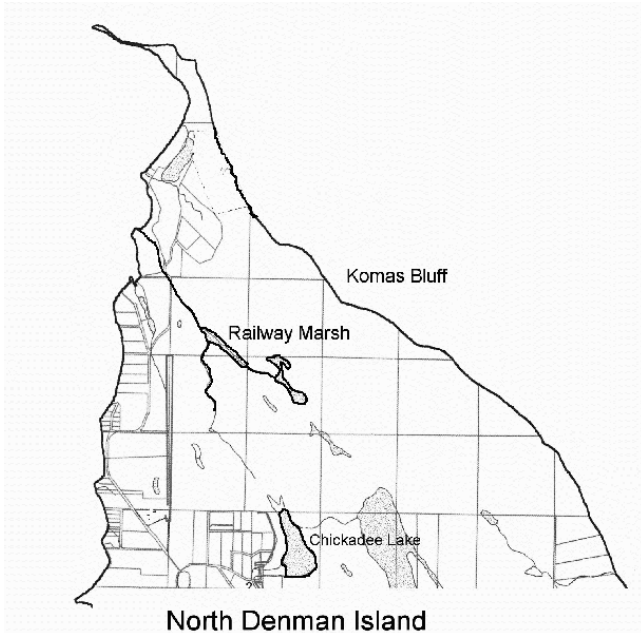
A homemade lunch will again be served in the Community Hall, the proceeds going to a local community group and a team of self-employed islanders. Our reservations phone line has been ringing off the hook with calls from across the continent and the special e-mail address is being well used.

Tickets went on sale May 15<sup>th</sup> in stores up and down Vancouver Island and at the Denman Craft Shop. Get yours soon. Total ticket sales are limited to avoid overcrowding and we usually sell out. A day pass ticket costs \$15. Hours are 9.30 am to 5 pm each day.

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### DCA Officers for 2005 are:

Roxanna Mandryk	Chairperson
Laura Pope	Co-Chairperson
David Freeman	Treasurer
Susan-Marie Yoshihara	Secretary



## Legal Case against 4064 Ltd.

The DCA legal committee met with Henning and Tomas Nielsen and JoAnn Harrison on April 29 to further discuss the possible settlement of the legal case. We were told that a new agreement has been reached between the Niensens and 4064 for the purchase of the lands, with a closing date for the sale of Sept. 30. Each side has now set down an outline of a settlement of the legal case that would meet the needs of that party. Any such settlement would be contingent on the completion of the sale of the land to the Neilsens.

In the meantime, the DCA intends to protect its conservation interests by continuing with the litigation. July 20 has been set as the date for the Examination for Discovery of Mr. Jenks.

DCA has a new lawyer on the case: Cathie Parker. Our law firm, Arvay-Finlay is down-sizing. As a result, Cathie will be forming a new firm with some of the other lawyers from Arvay Finlay. We have agreement from West Coast Environmental Law that our funding from the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund will continue with Cathie in the new law firm. DCA's legal case against 4064 Investment Ltd. is aimed at securing covenants around the Railway Marsh System and along the Komas Bluff. The

Hancock sales contract required that these lands have covenants placed on them. The rights of Hancock to enforce that contract have been assigned to DCA. The suit seeks the covenants as well as damages to compensate for the logging in the Railway Grade Marsh area that the covenants would have prevented.

It is possible to access the old Railway Grade from Northwest Road. It is about a three-quarter hour hike to the overlook of Eagle Marsh. There are a few windfalls to negotiate on the second half of the hike.

The railway grade is about 20 or 30 meters south of the creek and marsh and it looks like another skid road except that is more straight and level than your usual skid road. It dates from the era of railway logging, early last century. Old stumps have roots that can be seen to have grown after the side embankments of the grade were formed, validating its age.

*John Millen*

### **A Reminder:**

DCA has created the **Doug Olstead Award** of \$200, which will be awarded annually for the next five years to a Denman Island youth aged 15 or 16.

The award for community service (not academic achievement) will be presented at the AGM to a youth from Denman who is judged to have contributed most to conservation or other community purposes.

## Conservancy endorses 'Park Principles.'

The Board agreed to join about 60 other conservation organizations to endorse 11 Principles set down by the Valhalla Wilderness Society. Concern about the management of our BC Parks by the provincial government was the main reason for this initiative. The 'Principles' seem to have undergone some mutations as they appeared in different locations. One version appeared in a flyer **BC Parks in Peril** that was released before the recent election (without our name associated with it.) Another version appears on the Valhalla website [www.vws.org](http://www.vws.org) where DCA is listed among the organizations that have endorsed the Principles.

## Conservation Covenant Project

Last year DCA initiated the **DCA Conservation Covenant Project** in order to make DCA's work on covenants better structured, sustainable and user-friendly. Daniel Terry's proposed covenant on his new property, where he hopes to relocate Denman Island Chocolate, has been used as a pilot project. It has provided a vehicle to develop procedures, informational materials, and templates to facilitate placement and maintenance of conservation covenants on Denman.

In April, in a cost-sharing arrangement between DCA and the Land Trust Alliance, a technician undertook a Baseline Study of the Terry property. The Study documents the existing characteristics of the covenant area and serves as a baseline for covenant monitoring and management in perpetuity. In an effort to increase on-island expertise about conservation covenants, Denman Islander, Erin O'Brien, assisted the technician and was trained in Baseline Study procedures.

Among materials being developed as part of the project are two informational brochures for general distribution on Denman later this year -- *Conservation Covenants - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* and *Financial Costs/Benefits of Conservation Covenants: FAQs*.

DCA has established the **Ruth Terry Conservation Covenant Fund** to assist Denman Islanders who may require financial support to place conservation covenants on their lands. Please consider making a donation to support the Ruth Fund.

### Deer on Denman

Very shortly we will enter the time of year when the does on Denman have their fawns. This generally happens between the 1st and 2nd week of June. The does, which we have been seeing all over the island, suddenly seem to disappear. Indeed they have, gone into their safe areas to deliver their one or sometimes two fawns.

This last year (2004) fawning season differed slightly in that fawns were delivered over a longer time period, and new fawns were still showing up as late as the first week in July. This could be a result of a reduction in bucks, perhaps taking longer to locate and breed the does. Or it could be due to some other seasonal influence we know nothing about.

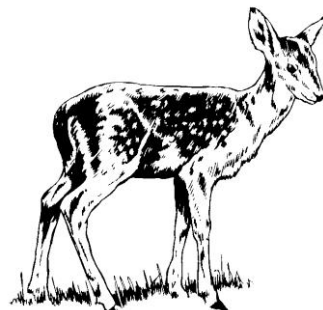
This last winter saw a very high mortality rate for the nearly one-year-old fawns from last summer. There is no knowing why some years have higher die off rates than others. In asking around (a time honoured way of doing research on Denman!) I talked to John Isbister.

John's theory is that with the mild winters and lack of deep snow the deer have not foraged on the cedar trees, firs and balsams. The needles of these trees seem to act as a natural wormer that helps clean out the parasites from the deer's gut. John feels there will likely be a boost in the deer population over the next few years. The more open areas up the north end will give the deer a habitat they like, and as we see less hunting there will be less pressure on them from this as well.

With the imminent arrival of the fawns we all need to exercise extra caution on the roads and keep dogs from running loose. Does are heavily pregnant at this time of the year and are very vulnerable to dogs. Fawns are erratic at best on the roads. Some good rules of thumb are to slow down, expect two when you see one, and give them some time to sort themselves out on which direction they will go. Often the fawns will panic and split up on the road, which can be tough for the doe. She will sometimes double back to try and pick up the lagging babe.

Of course we all know the rule about not disturbing fawns that are found stashed in the long grass or in the forest. It is always tempting to imagine they are abandoned - and of course very rarely they are. Always try to give at least a full day and night before deciding they have been left alone. Does sometimes leave them for extended times and fawns are always better off with their mom!

With patience and common sense we'll all enjoy the beauty of the new members of our large deer herd on Denman again this year. *Laura Pope*



## Walk to Tree Island

On the May 7 low-tide weekend Dorrie Woodward led about 25 of us to Tree Island. It was a lovely sunny day but there was a little too much southeast wind for some, especially the canoeists. We heard about some First Nations and early settler history as well as the training activities there during the Second World War. Gun emplacement concrete and the bones of a landing craft remain as evidence of the latter.

On the beach we saw shells of several exotic species introduced through shellfish farming and on the Island we encountered a few specimens of broom, an invasive species in this terrain that the Friends of Tree Island have been campaigning to eliminate. However the Friends do not seem to be so antagonistic to the introduced asparagus! We also climbed and admired the wooden steps installed by the Friends on a trail over the sand dunes to focus the foot traffic, which had been damaging the fragile vegetation.

But most we enjoyed the wonderful fields of wild flowers in bloom, many of which are not common in British Columbia as there is little sand dune habitat here and some are quite rare.

Dorrie is anxious to find new members for the Friends group as she is leaving Denman soon and would like to feel that she can leave here with the Sandy Islands Park in good hands.



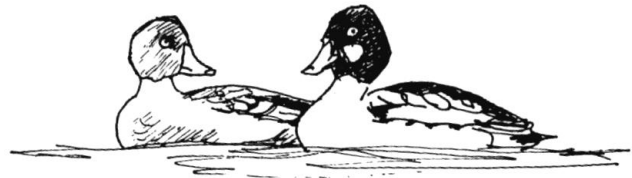
salal and cedars by Annie Siegel

## Membership

On the morning of July 9<sup>th</sup> the DCA will have a table at the Old School Recycle Centre for renewal of Conservancy memberships and to provide information about our activities. We hope this is a good time for our summer residents to catch up with us. See you there.

## Winter Wren Wood

The Nature Trail will be reinstalled in time for the Garden Tour weekend. Visitors are welcome to stroll this short lakefront trail. You could also look for the loop trail through the back half of the property that starts across the road from the driveway entrance.



## Upcoming DCA Event

**June 25** Low-tide walk with John Tayless  
Watch for announcements in the Grapevine.

## A Note from the Editor

An interesting discussion started at the Board meeting on May 16. It concerned the types of properties that DCA should seek to acquire. The issue was whether DCA should buy, for preservation, lands on which public access for recreation would not be permitted. Directors agreed that some of our land should accommodate walking trails for public use, as for instance does Winter Wren Wood.

The issue was whether we would ever buy land intending that there should be no access.

Members of DCA who are interested in this policy question are urged to talk to directors, or perhaps write a letter. Your editor would welcome correspondence on this topic. J.M.

For more information on Denman Conservancy, and back issues of the Newsletters, see our web site:

[www.denmanis.bc.ca/conserv](http://www.denmanis.bc.ca/conserv)