



Denman Conservancy Association

NEWSLETTER

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

March 2005

2005 Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at the Old School on Monday 21 March. Roxanna Mandryk presided over the attentive crowd of forty members.

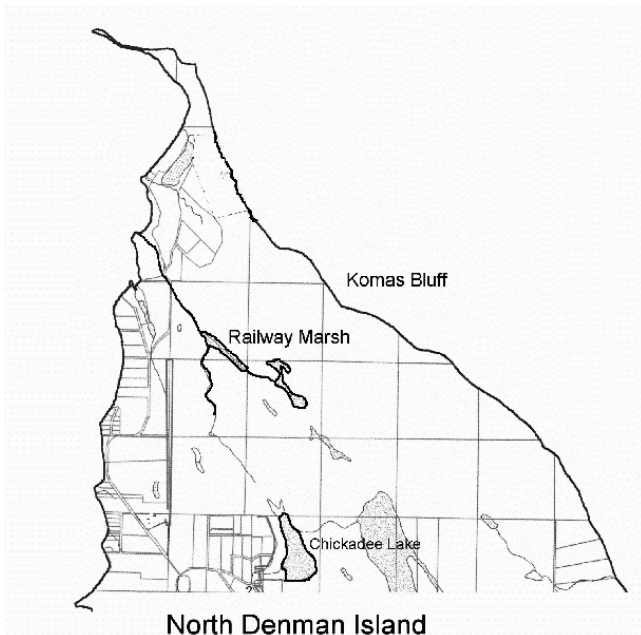
Retiring Treasurer Concha Dennis presented her last financial report.

Susan-Marie Yoshihara thanked retiring directors Bentley LeBaron, Concha Dennis and Dorrie Woodward for their years of service to the Association. Token gifts of silly garden ornaments were presented to the retiring directors, seemingly as much for the entertainment of the audience as for the gratification of the retirees. (It appears that a commitment to DCA has to be for life. Ed.)

DCA Directors elected for 2005 are:

David Freeman	John Millen
Patrick Fawkes	Laura Pope
Carol Freeman	J Thornton
Susan-Marie Yoshihara	Brian Miles
Denise MacKean	LeeAndra Jacobs
Roxanna Mandryk	Patti Willis

AGM reports continued overleaf



Legal Case against 4064 Ltd.

On 16th March the Legal Committee of Denman Conservancy met with Henning and Tomas Nielsen, at their request, to discuss the DCA suit against 4064 Investments Ltd. As was published in a flyer in the Grapevine last week, the Nielsens are in the process of acquiring 4064 Investments, Ltd. One of the 'subject to' conditions of their agreement concerns the DCA legal case.

Among the agreed conditions for the meeting was that the discussion would be confined to the legal case, as distinct from the larger subject of any future development plans for the 4064 lands.

The Legal Committee reiterated that the DCA has always been open to a settlement offer and provided the Nielsens with principles that outline the conditions necessary for a settlement of the case to be acceptable to DCA. The Nielsens suggested that if a settlement were agreed on, it could come into effect on the same date as the transfer of title, at the end of August. It is understood that the Nielsens intend to prepare a settlement proposal.

DCA's legal case against 4064 Investment Ltd. is aimed at securing covenants around the Railway Marsh 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.

In the meantime, the DCA intends to protect its conservation interests by continuing with the litigation.

John Millen

Highlights of Reports to the AGM

DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The board adopted a policy on development in 2004. The basis of the policy is that the DCA board does not take a position in support of, or in opposition to, a development proposal whether it is on or off Denman Island, and that we do not undertake projects that include development as a component.

WINTER WREN WOOD

Peter Karsten's signs were placed along a summer nature trail from June to October. A short extension to this trail with a boardwalk over a small swampy area is planned and will be done when the water is lower this summer.

A monitoring schedule involving neighbours in the area during the hot, dry summer was established. Signage was made clear and the parking area was closed for a short time at the high fire risk period last summer.

This summer the nature trail will be marked again for use. A school workshop day is planned for June similar to the successful event held two years ago.

INNER ISLAND NATURE RESERVE

The Inner Island management committee has recently amended and submitted the Management Plan for the Reserve as required by the Islands Trust Fund.

HOME & GARDEN TOUR

The 2004 Tour was the most successful ever with sales of 1377 full-day tickets.

This year's HOME & GARDEN TOUR will be on 18th & 19th of June. The number of tickets will be limited to 1500 and they will go on sale on May 15 at the Denman Craft Store and other outlets. Leslie Dunsmore and Roxanna Mandryk will be co-ordinators this year.

LINDSAY – DICKSON NATURE RESERVE

A trail plan has been approved by the owners, Islands Trust Fund, and trail construction (mainly clearing out existing old roads) will commence soon. Two entry points will have signs. Both will be from Mallard Road.

COVENANT PROJECT

DCA's expertise in creating covenants is being pulled together to establish a user-friendly system to support the placing of Conservation Covenants on Denman lands. The pilot project has been to work with Daniel Terry to create a covenant for the bluffs section of his property at the top of the big hill, the location of his proposed chocolate factory.

A workshop to provide information about covenants to all interested Islanders is planned for later this year.

As announced with a flyer in last week's Grapevine 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.

SOLICITOR DOUG OLSTEAD HONOURED

Since the first days, writing the constitution and by-laws of the Denman Conservancy, Doug Olstead has provided us with his carefully thought-out advice. With his semi-retirement from practice, he is also retiring from his role as DCA's solicitor, although he has agreed to see a few ongoing files to their conclusion.

The extent of Doug's contribution to DCA is hard to measure. As he didn't send us any bills we don't even have a \$\$\$ count that would be some indication. From the legal leverage he devised for us to intervene, and ultimately to preserve the Lindsay-Dickson lands, to the creation of new tools for covenanting, Doug has helped DCA throughout its existence. His clear explanations of the law to baffled Board members will certainly be missed.

To honour Doug's service 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.

Upcoming DCA Events

April 2 Medicinal Plants: talk by Sheila Salas
(see item in today's Grapevine)

April (date tba) Clamming with Mike Morrell

May 7 Walk to Tree Island: Dorrie Woodward
Watch for announcements in the Grapevine.

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

www.denmanis.bc.ca/conserve