



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

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2002

## Lindsay-Dickson Nature Reserve

Fall seems to be late this year with the leaves of the Big Leaf Maples hanging in their golden splendour among the dark firs and cedars. By the 26th October there was still no surface water in the wetlands and creeks.

John Isbister has had his machine in at the log landing at the top of Mallard Way to fill in the heavy ruts in the old skid trails. He also placed the large rocks across the entrance.

The planning committee for the walking trails is set for an interesting winter session of exploration and choosing the appropriate routes to consolidate as public walking trails.

A copy of the Management Plan with maps and colour photos of the Reserve is in the Dora Drinkwater Library – ask at the desk.

## Conservation Calendar

The Land Trust Alliance of BC has produced a Calendar for 2003 featuring lands recently conserved by Land Trusts and Conservancies in British Columbia. The colour picture for June is of old cedars in Lindsay-Dickson Nature Reserve taken by John Millen.

We will be selling the calendars as well as Oregon Grape Jelly at our table at the Christmas Craft Faire.

## Winter Wren Wood

It has been another lovely summer up by Chickadee Lake. This Conservancy property on Lake Road hosted many visitors from early spring until now. The Home and Garden Tour came by and throughout the summer we saw swimmers, picnickers, walkers and people fishing.

The car-park area has stood up well and those who are launching boats seem happy with their access. Several boats found a summer home by the lake. Plant regeneration looks good.

Presently we are placing a covenant on the property to be held by Islands Trust Fund. In preparation for this we drew up a management plan and did some tentative future trail planning. The present Nature Trail, with Peter Karsten's signs that were up all summer, is popular - especially with visiting grandchildren. Stop by any time and enjoy the tranquillity of the woods and the view of the lake.

## Membership

Our membership renewal drive was continued on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October at Recycling and at the Store. We now have 110 paid-up members. The next chance to renew will be at the Christmas Craft Faire.



## The Legacy Fund -- Chickadee Lake

The glassy still that descended on Chickadee Lake in those glorious, golden days of October belied the activity of only two months before in that very same place. All summer long, with children swimming in the sunny afternoons, canoes and beavers cutting the water at sundown, and Barred owls calling in the dark, the Lake indeed proved to be the "hotspot of biodiversity" that Dr. Chris Pielou has described.

While creatures of various kinds enjoyed the Lake, behind the scenes in dim offices, at computer screens, on telephones and in meetings, the Acquisition Committee continued its work to raise the funds to save this cherished spot from logging and development. Among activities were site visits to Chickadee by various agencies, including both the Islands Trust Fund and the BC Nature Trust, who have confirmed the critical regional and provincial importance of Chickadee's ecology.

The intense efforts this summer "paid off" with substantial institutional and individual pledges. In particular, the generosity and foresight of Denman Islanders continues to have no bounds -- our gratitude!

2003 has been designated by the United Nations as the "Year of Freshwater." It is the Denman Conservancy's intention to ensure that in 2003 Denman's largest body of fresh water -- the 14 hectares of Chickadee Lake and its shores -- will finally be protected in perpetuity in concert with next year's world-wide aspirations. Stay tuned for more updates.

**Thanks** to Newsletter

Contributors: Jenny Balke, Leslie Dunsmore, Denise MacKean, John Millen, Patti Willis, Susan-Marie Yoshihara.

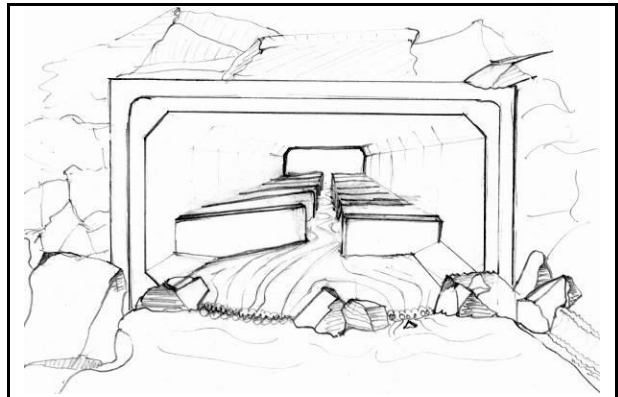


## Valens Brook Salmon Project

We haven't yet seen enough water flowing in Valens Brook to demonstrate how effective the new culvert is in allowing salmon to migrate past McFarlane Road into the upper reaches of the watershed. This state-of-the-art concrete culvert has a series of baffles cast in the bottom to slow the water flowing through. The baffles create greater water depth and back eddies which aid the migrating salmon in their passage through the culvert.

Now we just need those heavy Fall rains.....

This project was made possible by the support of the Ministry of Highways and the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection.



Looking into the Valens Brook culvert on McFarlane Road from the downstream end

## Morrison Marsh South

The term of our Eco-Action grant has been extended to allow time for the survey, necessary for the completion of the covenant on this land.