

Denman Conservancy

submitted by Anne DeCosson

The Board members of Denman Conservancy Association would like to wish all Denman Islanders a happy, prosperous, and environmentally 'green' NEW YEAR! Many thanks to all of you who have supported our endeavours in the past year; and congratulations to all our new island LAND STEWARDS. There are now 27 properties being stewarded on the island. This means that these properties will be voluntarily looked after with a long-term ecological outlook. Some people may be protecting and caring for an eagle tree, a watercourse, wetlands, foreshore, or possibly just a favourite natural corner of their property. This also means that when developers or loggers want to change the face of our island we can all stand up proudly and say: "Hey, look, we ALL steward our island land very carefully and we expect you to do the same!" The Conservancy project has received funding to continue the project through to 1999 - so let's all be stewards by the millenium! Call Heather MacLeod or Jenny Balke for details of how you can become a land steward.

Many of you may have noticed the island forestry t-shirts available this summer and fall. This project was initiated by Jennifer LeBaron who was employed by our Stewardship Project during the summer. Many thanks to: Jennifer for all her enthusiasm and hard work, Susan Hughes who raised 'up front' money, Jane Fawkes who designed the shirts, Dennis Forsythe and Marilyn Jensen who did the marketing, and the craft shop who agreed to sell them without commission. The DI Forestry Co-op is producing a 2nd printing of the shirts & we know all of you will continue to buy them for all your relatives, friends, etc. We all hope to keep distributing information about the forestry issue

on the island.

Conservancy Board members are working with Mr Jencks on conservation covenants to be placed on certain portions of his land. This includes Komas Bluffs, Railway Marsh and possibly others. The discussions are going well and Mr Jencks is studying various covenant proposals. Conservancy is also planning to meet with the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks on Jan. 7 to discuss several issues including industrial level logging on all the gulf islands, crown lands and Lindsay Dickson. The Lindsay Dickson land trade negotiations continue, but seem to need a good energy boost at the moment to get past all the small hurdles that keep stalling things.

Conservancy plans for the New Year include a concerted fund-raising effort to enable us to purchase further land on Denman that is considered ecologically important. A committee has been struck to designate priority areas and to research funding possibilities. Conservancy is also planning several workshops in the New Year including wildlife monitoring on private properties, and sea plankton. Watch the calendar for details.

At the regular December meeting we welcomed three new board members: Peter Karsten, Patti Willis and John Tayless. They join ongoing members: Jenny Balke, Juan Barker, Anne de Cosson, George Ferry, Rudi Friesen, Des Kennedy, Bentley LeBaron, Denise MacKean, Heather MacLeod, and Susan Marie Yoshihara. Many thanks to both Sheelagh Salas and Margaret Fraser for their time on the board. The New executive consists of Anne de Cosson and Jenny Balke as Co-coordinators, Denise MacKean as Secretary, and Rudi Friesen as Treasurer. We all thanked Des for his excellent work as past coordinator, both as our public conservancy spokesperson, and as our patient facilitator!