

The Writers' Group will meet Sunday, August 3rd at 2:00 p.m. in the Seniors' Lounge.

DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

Denman Conservancy had a long and productive July meeting. Of note is that the Stewardship Pledge program is up and running. The stewardship center is open every Saturday morning at the Old School. For further information, please phone Heather MacLeod at 335- 2476. A reminder: that stewardship is a way that you, as a landowner or renter, can make a pledge to yourself and the island that you will look after the natural features on your land to the best of your ability. A biologist will help you decide what special or unique features you might have. A commitment to our own land is especially important at this time when we are asking the government to look at making a commitment to the future protection of all the gulf islands.

The Conservancy has been active in putting together a 'Conservation component' for the Forestry Initiative business plan. The Conservancy is committed to protection for certain lands within the 4064 property. The areas targeted are the Komas Bluffs, Graham Ridge/Madigan, Railway Marsh and Chickadee Lake. Members of the Conservancy have also submitted ideas towards a forest practice by-law for the Denman Island OCP to the Islands Trust. Conservancy would also encourage all islanders to think carefully about what we do want to happen in our forests.

On August 16, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Jenny Balke will host a Native Plant Gardening Workshop at the Old School. Richard Porter, owner of the Native Plants nursery on Fraser Road in Courtenay will be on hand to speak about native plants. Participants will have a chance to plan and plant a small native plant corner for the Old School Field. There are activities planned for children as well.

Nothing is moving at the moment on the Lindsay Dickson property, as the government negotiators are on holiday!

Many Conservancy meeting hours have been spent discussing our involvement with Shell Canada and their grant to us from the Shell Environmental Fund. We have finally decided to return the full amount to Shell and have included a copy of our letter here:

Shannon McIntee,
Administrator,
Shell Environmental Fund,
P.O. Box 100,
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 2H5

July 24, 1997

Dear Shannon McIntee,

We are writing to acknowledge our discomfort over receiving funds from the Shell Environmental Fund, due to its connection with Shell International and human rights and environmental abuses in Nigeria. Our Board of Directors were thorough in their investigations of the situation in Nigeria and conducted long and arduous deliberations over our position. Our final decision is to return all of the funds which were received for the project "Development of the Denman Conservancy Resource and Education Centre and the Mapping Project", #95.0157. A cheque for \$4,875.00 is enclosed.

We recognized that the Denman Conservancy Association accomplished critical environmental work with the Shell funds; that the amount of the Shell funds was significant to our non-profit society; and that Shell Canada employees may have little involvement in decisions affecting Nigeria. However, we also recognized that we all make choices with respect to the limit of our acceptance of morally wrong acts; and we, as a group of individuals, could not accept funds from Shell which is directly connected to the Nigerian atrocities.

We researched a number of avenues to address our concern and the only one which remains possible, after all our efforts, is to return the funds to Shell. We thank the Shell Canada employees who reviewed our proposal and awarded us these funds. We hope that Shell Canada, if unable to influence the deplorable actions of Shell International, will then examine its own inescapable connections to such acts.

Yours Sincerely,

J. Balke and D. Kennedy
co-coordinators, Denman Conservancy
Association

SENIORS HOUSING SOCIETY

In order to proceed with this project we have to establish water quality and quantity, and tests are currently underway. We are also setting up a diversion trench and approx. 15 test holes to monitor the water table through out the 97-98 wet season. The next meeting date will be posted.

FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Since July 1, when the numbered company 4064 Ltd. bought the former Hancock land on Denman, a crew of three fallers have been cutting trees five days a week at a site about 1 1/2 km east of Chickadee Lake. Mr. Jenks, one of three partners in 4064 Ltd. has twice been asked by the DFC to show us his logging plans but we have had no reply. He has, however, given some of Hancock's timber cruise data to DFI, which might be helpful to Silva's Landscape Assessment study. Our information on 4064's logging activities are based on a meeting with Mr. Jenks on July 23, and visits to the site by DFC members: Mr. Jenks has given us verbal permission to visit the site.

As of July 26, approximately 20 ha of forest had been cut. Logs had been stockpiled at three landings, each of which is about 1/2 ha. in area. Although the cut area is not a clearcut — the faller contractor called it a "heavy selection cut" — the trees that are left standing are no larger than about 200 mm (8 inches) at the bottom, about 10 to 15 m high and are fairly evenly spaced. The contractor said there are several large old trees (older than 100 years) that will be left standing in the planned logging area.

From informal talks with Mr. Jenks and the contractor it appears that the total area to be logged at this site could be as much as 65 ha, which could translate into about 35,000 m³ of timber removed. It is interesting to note that Hancock had already removed 14,500 m³ up to June 30, and had planned to cut another 9100 m³ for a total of 23,600 m³ for 1997. The DFC had estimated that an annual cut of 23,000 m³ was certainly not sustainable on a long-term basis, and clearly a total estimated cut for 1997 of 49,500 m³ (14,500 + 35,000) is even farther from sustainable.

The DFC have again written to Mr. Jenks asking him to meet with us to discuss his plans: in the meantime we can only use estimates of the extent of his logging for 1997. And we have no idea of his plans for the remainder of 4064's property on Denman. DFC will continue to post important forestry correspondence on the board at the General Store, and will also put letters in the DFC file in the library.

For the latest up-dates on forestry issues see the Forest Issues newsletter that comes with the Grapevine.

FORESTRY EVENTS

Every Sunday there will be an Open Sharing Circle at the Yurt (by the Craft Store) at 7:00 p.m. — one and all welcome. For more information contact Susan Hughes at 335-0542.

Dance for the Community Forest on Friday, August 1 starting at 7:30 p.m. with Casey Neill (environmental folk musician). Delicious ethnic food will be available. For location and more information please call 335-0053.

Help celebrate BC Day on Monday, August 4 in front of the yurt (downtown). There will be forest tours, a potluck picnic, a photo exhibition, jazz and more. Watch for posters.

There will be an Stress Management workshop on Wednesday, August 6 at the Yurt (next to the Craft Store) 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. — a practical hands-on workshop introducing the concepts and skills of Applied Kinesiology by Blake Lawson C.K. Certified Bio-Kinesiologist. Bring a bag lunch and drinking water. Suggested donation is \$10-25. Proceeds collected in excess of costs will be donated to the Sierra Legal Defense Fund earmarked for Denman Island. Space is limited. For more information and to reserve a space please call Susan Hughes at 335-0542.

On Friday, August 15 the Community School presents Karen Angle and Pepe Mendoza with special guest Ken Hamm in a concert "Ceremony for the Forest" at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Hall.

On Saturday, August 16 local bands — Teatree, On Root, Rhubarb Rhubarb (Courtenay), Rhythmus (Victoria), and more — will play for a Forest Festival dance at the Community Hall starting at 7:00 p.m.

A Forest Festival workshop with speakers, crafts, food, videos, and music will be held at the Community Hall on Sunday, August 17.

COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK NEWS

A Council of All Beings, a workshop presenting an opportunity for connecting with nature within safe exercises, is open to all Denman Islanders concerned with creating unity around forestry issues. It will take place, free of charge, at the Old School, on August 9th, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., and will be facilitated by Miriam Leigh and Anne deCosson. For more information call 335-0164.