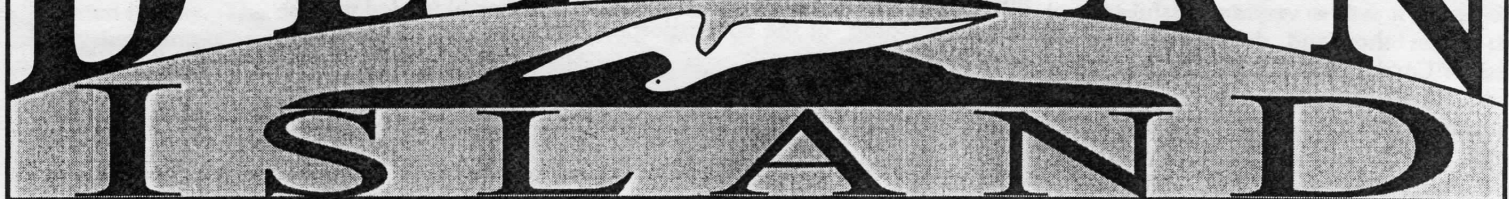


JULY

1997

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DENMAN ISLAND

CONSERVANCY

The Conservancy Board met one week later than usual in June to allow for all to recover from the Home and Garden Tour. Once again it was a very successful tour, over fifteen thousand dollars has been raised for Conservancy. It is of course, impossible to have such a successful event without the hundreds of volunteer hours that go into the event. The Conservancy Board would like to thank ALL who volunteered their time and effort. Of course, a very big special thanks to all the people who opened their homes or gardens for the Tour!

The kitchen made over \$3,000. and after expenses the cement pad project will be about \$2,000. richer. The Community school, and the Conservancy Association, are both glad to be able to support this project for the youth of the island. As most of you are aware, cement footings are underway....

On other fronts the Conservancy continues working on the Lindsay Dickson project, many small details are being worked out and it is hoped that the government negotiators will come up with a viable land trade package soon. So far, these negotiations keep stalling, and then, under pressure; lurch forward again! Big thanks to George Ferry and Des Kennedy who keep fielding the daily phone calls on this subject.

The stewardship project is getting under way. A summer student will be hired, a stewardship center will be open for Saturday mornings throughout the summer at The Old School, and all islanders and landowners will be hearing from the stewardship committee shortly. In the meantime, think about what your property has that could be 'stewarded' or looked after: an eagle nest, a wetland, beavers(?), waterfront, unusual plants, historical features, forest, deer trails, mink colonies and on and on. I'm sure we all have something special that we care about on our land. We are all stewards and, I hope, proud of it!

FORESTRY COMMITTEE

From now until September 1st, there will be no more logging on Hancock's property—this will be a relief for residents near Chickadee Lake from the constant noise of chainsaws and machines, and it will relive some of the congestion on the ferry.

Logging on the Leakey property on Swan Road and North Central Road is nearly finished. They do not plan to return to these sites for some years.

However, the Leakey family also owns 41.2 ha. of waterfront just north of Fil-longley Park, and they might have to log it to pay for estate taxes. They have tried to trade or sell this land to the Province for a park without success, and are now trying the same deal with the Federal Government. They have set a time limit of September 1st. In a letter to the Forestry Committee from Mr. Ed Leakey a request has been made for... "people on Denman Island to write or phone Parks Canada on this issue to try and help us on a trade or direct sell to the government." The Forestry has asked Mr. Leakey for further clarification on this proposed deal, and how we can support it.

We still await details of Hancock's harvest plans for 1998 so that we can visit the proposed logging sites to look for rare or endangered species of flora and fauna. On May 30th, Hancock told us that they had almost completed the field survey part of their ecological assessment of their Denman properties. We look forward to seeing their report.

Graham Ridge is still on the chopping block for the fall, and, as noted in last month's newsletter, the Forestry Committee as of June 2nd, repeated its request to Hancock that logging at this site be deferred at least until we have reviewed Silva's landscape assessment report, which is due in the fall.

Meanwhile, enjoy the quiet of the forest this summer!

DENMAN FORESTRY INITIATIVE

Our forestry initiative moved forward in several areas in June and as a result we feel we are making good progress towards our goal of readiness to purchase the Hancock Lands as a community forest.

Formation of the Co-op continued at a good pace and a draft set of incorporation documents is now available for everyone's review at the Library. A Community meeting on 8th July will address some of the outstanding matters such as 'what will we call it?'

Groundwork for the business plan was laid at a meeting with Brian Fisher of the

Union Bay Credit Union. His assurance of advice and assistance from the Credit Union was well received and diligent number crunching is continuing. Forest Consultants are being identified for the Feasibility Study, the second part of the Forest Renewal funded work.

From handing out 500 information sheets and selling our buttons on the garden tour weekend our project is becoming more widely known.

Five of our group visited with Cortez Island Forestry Committee and discussed with them the results of the Landscape Assessment of their island done by Silva Forest Foundation.

July will be a busy time with fieldwork and a Landscape Assessment Project Group Open House to look at air photos and maps on July 12 (Saturday) at the Old School.

THE DENMAN ISLANDER
Newsletter & Calendar
is compiled & distributed by
Pied Paper

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