



**Denman Conservancy Association**

# **NEWSLETTER**

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

April 2021

## **NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS**

### **A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

**of DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION will be held**

**7:30 pm on Monday, May 17, 2021  
on ZOOM**

*The purpose of this Special General meeting is to approve the purchase by Denman Conservancy Association of 80 acres of forest land located adjacent to the Provincial Park on Pickles Road.*

**A link to the ZOOM Meeting will be sent by email to current members prior to the meeting.**

Denman Conservancy Association (DCA) has an agreement to purchase two adjacent 40 acre lots from Raven Forest Products Ltd. The agreement is subject to financing and the approval of the DCA membership.

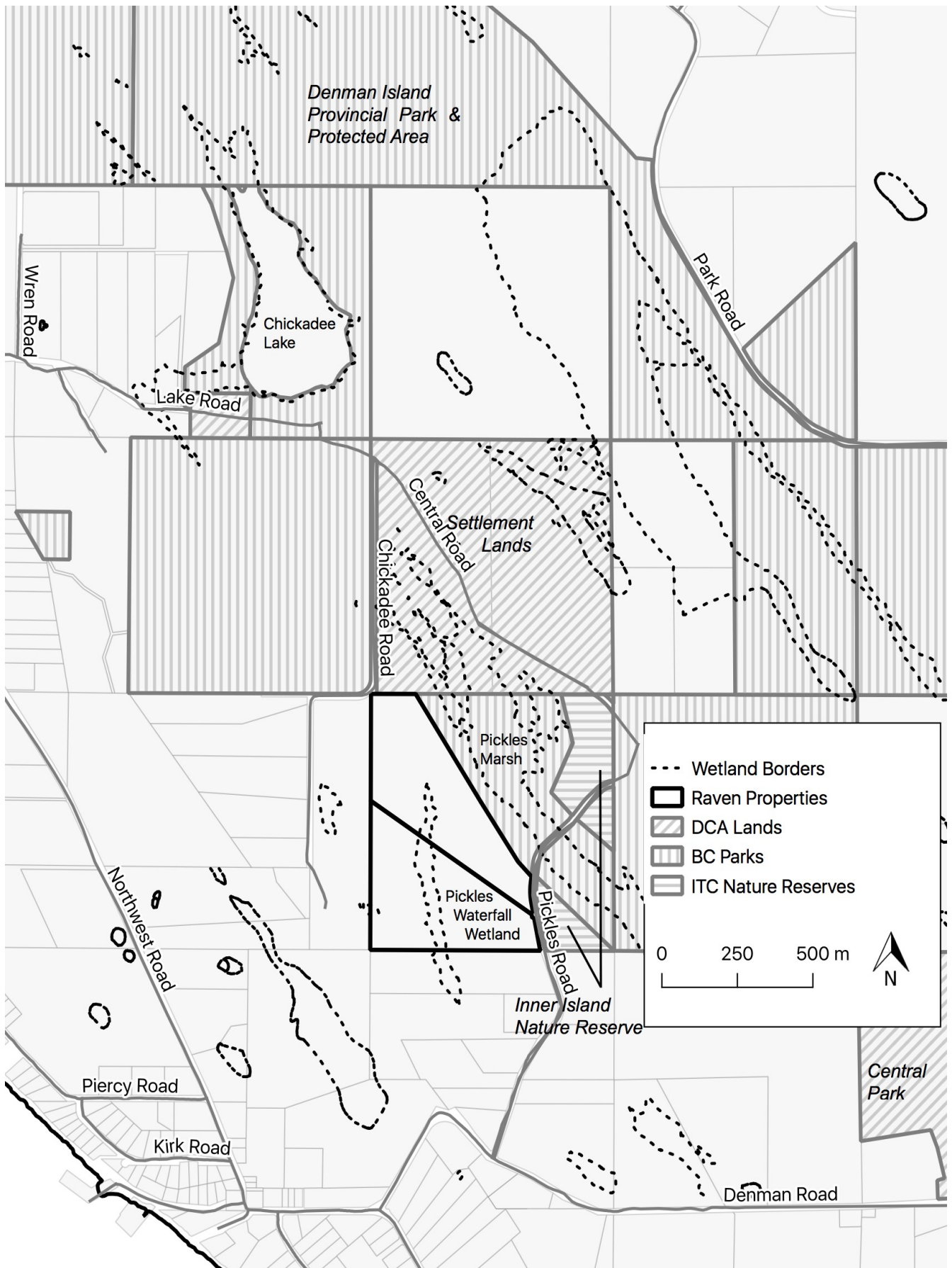
The Raven land is contiguous with Denman Island Provincial Park land at Pickles Bridge and is across Pickles Road from the Inner Island Nature Reserve. The land also has a common boundary with DCA's Settlement Lands as shown on the map on Page 2.

Funding of this million dollar purchase by DCA is proposed to consist of DCA's Acquisition Fund, Grants from the Federal and Provincial Governments, a grant from Islands Trust Conservancy and funds pledged by DCA members and supporters.

The Douglas fir forest on the land is about 40 years old and has grown in very well. There are two significant wetland areas, the larger of which is a sedge fen draining via a seasonal stream into Pickles marsh, which is part of the headwaters of Beadnell Creek.

DCA will establish a trail on the properties with public access for the purposes of low impact recreation and nature observation. The land may also be used for nature research and education.

Current DCA members will receive a link to the ZOOM meeting by email. If you wish to check the status of your DCA membership, become a member, or donate you can do that at the Saturday Farmer's Market by visiting the DCA stall from May 1st. See Page 3 for other ways to renew your membership.



**Colour the Raven Properties Green!**

# Pickles Waterfall Wetlands

## What is special about this land?

The most important conservation value of the property is that it is adjacent to existing protected land. In fact it connects with all of the main types of conservation land on Denman: the Provincial Park, an Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserve and DCA Settlement Lands. Wetlands on the Gulf Islands are precious and rare habitats, yet many of our wetlands are not protected, opening them up to degradation and loss. They are the lifeblood of the heart of the island. The fen on the Raven property feeds the adjacent Pickles Marsh. Downstream users of the watershed will benefit from protection of this property as the lands capture, store and purify the surface waters, and replenish the groundwater. Pickles Marsh is used as an emergency reservoir for firefighting on the island, and the closed canopy forest and wetlands likely also help to mitigate forest fire risk in the area. The Beadnell Creek watershed drains to the east shore of Denman Island into one of its two salmon bearing estuaries. Downstream agricultural lands are sustained through the protection of the waters in this drainage. This property would add a key link in an extensive trail network in the heart of the Island. Overall, the protection of this area is of critical importance to its nonhuman inhabitants, but will also provide provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting ecosystem services, and economic, aesthetic, recreational & cultural co-benefits.

## Are there any rare or endangered species?

The property is representative of the rare Western red cedar - Douglas-fir / Oregon beaked-moss (BC red list) ecosystem – most of which has been lost to development. The lands are a treasure trove of rare and important species, such as the Northern red-legged frog (SARA SC, BC Blue List), and the Olive-sided flycatcher (SARA TH; BC Blue List). While a full biological survey has not been completed, an initial survey by an expert (Randall Mindell), confirmed 84 species of fungi, moss and lichen on the lands, including Jagged Germanderwort (BC blue list) and Peacock Vinyl Lichen (SARA Special Concern-Critically imperilled).

## What is the present status of this land?

The land is presently owned by Raven Forest Products Ltd. The two lots are advertised For Sale on their web site. The forest has reached the maturity that, judging by what is happening on the slopes of Vancouver Island across Baynes Sound, it could be harvested within the next ten years.

The zoning is for Forestry which allows one residence per lot. With the present demand for residential land on Denman Island these two lots could be attractive, as sites for a residence, to buyers seeking quiet and privacy.

For these reasons the DCA considers the integrity of this forest land to be threatened.

## What's this about a waterfall?

A creek that drains from the major fen in the two properties (the creek dries up in the summer) flows down a steep bank, across a bench in the Park and into the extensive wetland habitat of Pickles Marsh. Very close to the boundary between the Raven land and the Provincial Park the stream flows down a rocky cascade that has been called a waterfall. This drainage network is an integral part of the largest watershed on Denman Island, which includes Chickadee Lake and feeds Beadnell Creek which supports spawning coho salmon.

## Invitation to the ZOOM Meeting

All members are invited to attend the ZOOM Meeting on May 17 at 7:30 pm. The 'connect to ZOOM' code will be emailed to members in the week prior to the meeting. We need your email address for this!

To check the status of your membership, become a member or donate, visit the DCA stall at the Old School Farmers Market, Saturdays starting on May 1.

Alternatively join or update your membership by downloading the membership form from the DCA web site: [www.denman-conservancy.org/about](http://www.denman-conservancy.org/about) and mailing a cheque to the Treasurer at the address on the form. Applications are also available in the DCA folder, Freepost at Abraxas, where you can leave the completed application for pick-up.

If you know you are a member and have not received an invitation by Thursday May 13 please request an Invitation from Erika:  
[dcalandmanager@gmail.com](mailto:dcalandmanager@gmail.com)



Old logging road through the Raven property

## On the Land – April 2021

By Erika Bland

The wild strawberries are blooming! For me, this is the tell-tale wake-up call for Taylor's Checkerspot adult butterflies. Welcome back from your winter sleep, little TCBs. After a few months of 'computering' – working on grant reports and applications including for the Pickles Waterfall Wetland Securement Project (see page 1, 2, 3, 4) – I am looking forward to getting outside in the coming weeks.

I will be following up with private landowners on Denman where Checkerspot habitats were surveyed by Jenny Balke last year, as well as looking for Checkerspots and other butterflies throughout Denman Park, with Andrew Fyson. (Check out the insert in an upcoming Grapevine for a handy guide to the TCB life-cycle and some common 'lookalike' species. You can also check out our website for more info about how to spot Checkerspots, their habitat needs, etc. [www.denman-conservancy.org/denman-nature/tcb](http://www.denman-conservancy.org/denman-nature/tcb).)

DCA has also been busy this spring continuing our ongoing butterfly stewardship work at the Settlement Lands butterfly reserve. We have been removing small broom plants, transplanting small conifers to other areas of the lands, to maintain open meadow habitat and boost forest regeneration outside the reserve, and seeding pollinator host plant species. Some generous volunteers have seeded host plants for us, and the students from the Spring Break Camp helped plant seeds and wild strawberries at the pollinator garden in March!

Big thanks to the DI Volunteer Fire Department for filling up our water cistern! DCA is grateful for support for all of this work from Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation Land Stewardship Grant, Wildlife Preservation Canada's Wild Seed Grant, BC Conservation Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Go Grants, and Denman Island Community Education Society.

Email me at [dcalandmanager@gmail.com](mailto:dcalandmanager@gmail.com) if you would like to help with this ongoing work!

**Contributors to this Newsletter:** Erika Bland, DD Fuchs, Luise Hermanutz, John Millen, Patti Willis, Susan-Marie Yoshihara

## Shameless

There often tends to be a taboo about conversations on sex lives, religion, and money. When the planet's survival is on the line, taboos become insignificant in the great scheme of things. Thus, Erika Bland and Patti Willis have cast off all shame and embarrassment to ask for funds to purchase the Pickles Waterfall Wetland properties. In the past month, calling upon kindred spirits, they have raised \$80,600 in pledges from 32 individuals and one group (Denman Island Climate Action Network). The plot now thickens with Denman Island Chocolate's generous initiative to match every new pledge up to a total of \$10,000. The moral of the story: Ask for what you need – there are many who will heed the call.

### DOUBLE YOUR PLEDGE!

until May 31st



## denman island chocolate

will match any new pledges up to \$10,000!  
Make your pledge today and have double the impact.

email [info@denmanconservancy.org](mailto:info@denmanconservancy.org) or  
[pattiwillis2020@gmail.com](mailto:pattiwillis2020@gmail.com)

### DCA Directors for 2021

Doug Bell	Anne Fisher
DD Fuchs	Dylan Gale
Luise Hermanutz	John Millen
Ron Shepherd	Patti Willis
Susan-Marie Yoshihara	

Directors are all Denman Island residents

### DCA ZOOM Meeting

for Membership Approval of the purchase of the  
80 Acre Pickles Waterfall Wetlands

7:30 pm Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

secure your email invitation by making sure your  
membership is up-to-date.