

## DIRA Trails Committee

### Annual Report - April 2014

The Trails Committee has enjoyed a busy year with several projects finished.

Earlier in the year work was started on a foot bridge over a small creek in Boyle Point Park, the fun part of this project was that everything had to be carried in, or obtained around the site of the bridge. A large fallen tree about 30" diameter lay nearby from which we cut a 27'-0" section, this section was chain-sawed in half along its length to give us 2-stout boards to use as the bridge deck, the sill logs were found near the site, other material such as hand-railing, steel mesh, other hardware and tools were all carried in. The project was finished in May of last year, our committee work parties were both hard work and good fun and provided us with much satisfaction. Ralph showed some video of the bridge construction at a DIRA meeting, and in September the Trails Committee led a hike for Islanders to view the new bridge.

Derek Moore of B.C. Parks provided \$2,500 toward the construction of a multi-use bridge across Beadnell Creek in the new Northlands Park. Graeme Johnson was made Project Manager of this endeavour and he, with the help of Dean found 3 cedar logs in the immediate area to use as main support logs, sill logs were found in a similar way. The big difference in building this bridge was that vehicles and a bobcat could be brought to the site making things generally easier. Once the main supports were in place yellow cedar decking was installed along with hand-railing and a rubber coated mat to protect the decking from horses hooves. The approaches to the bridge were improved and the job was completed in September of last year.

The Trails Committee wanted to link up trails from Central Park to the new Beadnell Bridge and to that end scouted possible trails from the Central Park horse trail that connects with Pickles Road to the bridge. A suitable walking trail was found to a marsh that exists between Pickles Road and the bridge, a possible route across the marsh was considered and the trail from the marsh to the bridge easy. We also considered a separate trail for horses and roughed one out. All this was to be set aside after talking to Derek Moore of B.C. Parks. It seems that our enthusiasm for getting trails in is way ahead of Parks planning. It appears that there is much bureaucratic work to be done before we can get permission to improve the trail and getting permission to build a trail across the marsh needs much more study. Consequently we are in limbo on that project.

We have received permission to keep old and obvious trails in the new Northlands Park clear of brush and therefore on several occasions have held brush clearing work parties to do this. There are many great loop trails possible in the new Park and we are hoping to keep the obvious trails clear of brush.

The Trails Committee would like to work on making more of the trails in Boyle Point Park "Official" and with a few improvements to some trails this seemed do-able. However bureaucracy again reared its ugly head, it seems that an agreement between B.C. Parks and the Island Trust Fund needs to be made

because some Parks trails lead to trails on Island Trust land requiring an agreement between the two parties, this is on-going. In the meantime however, this does not affect the use of any of these trails to any who know and use them.

DIRA will be entering into an agreement with B.C. Parks to cover for insurance purposes any work that Trails Committee members do in Park land, at this time the agreement has not been finalized.

Regarding the Cross Island Trail, after what seems a long time, the first section of the trail is now complete. It runs from the Art Gallery to the bottom of the big hill and the feed-back we have received is positive. Last month Trails Committee members accompanied Karin Albert of the CVRD to do a final survey of the second phase of the trail. This will run from the top of the big hill, by the Graffiti fence along Denman Road to East Road if the funding stretches that far. Karin hopes to have an Island meeting near the end of this month to appraise Islanders of the new section, and start construction in May.

Through DIRA the Trails Committee will be entering into a maintenance agreement with the CVRD to maintain the Cross Island Trail for a period of two years. This agreement has not yet been finalized but hopes to be in the very near future.

I would like to thank the members of the Trails Committee for their loyalty and hard work over the past year. They are:

Anne Page, Derek Hood, Frank Frketich, Graeme Johnson, Howard Stewart, Margie Gang, Michael Gorman, Ralph McCuaig, and Tim Fuchs.

Report prepared by Allan Danks, Trails Committee Chair.