

Activity Report of the Parks Committee to DIRA October 10th, 2010

Stanehill Park update:

- ❑ Trails have been widened and levelled so that they can be negotiated by handicapped people with walkers and people with strollers.
- ❑ Nature Guide pamphlet for self service has been updated and is available at the park.
- ❑ Selected plant species have been acquired and will be planted in the park this fall.

Morning Beach Park.

- ❑ Title transfers have been completed.
- ❑ CVRD has established 5 parking stalls along the road opposite of the park entrance.
- ❑ The PC has made a site visit to make recommendations to the CVRD for the stair way to the beach. (report attached)
- ❑ Brian Allaert, CVRD Parks technician is developing the process to design and construct the stair way. \$12,000 is available in the CVRD budget until December 31 for the design development. The PC will report back to DIRA when plans and proposals become available.

NDL

The PC chair (Peter Karsten) and Co-chair (Laura Pope) attended an information meeting by Ian Atherton of the Ministry of Environment on October 7th. A press release is scheduled for the 12th of October to announce the completion of the land transfers to the MoE for parks. The entire package entailed \$6.7 million dollars of value. NDL contributed \$1.4 million in value of lands to the MoE. A tax receipt relating to capital gains tax was issued for \$1.1 million to the NDL. The Ecosystem Restoration Associates (ERA), a public company, contributed \$1.2 million for carbon sequestration rights on the private land portion (NDL) prior to the transfer to MoE. Carbon sequestration rights are covenanted on the land title for 100 years. No trees are to be harvested for the 100 year period. The sequestration of carbon is marketed to a wide range of companies as carbon off-sets in the voluntary carbon market. The Ministry of Environment contributed \$232,000 in cash and 31 densities from the Crown lands. The MoE considers the acquisition on behalf of the people of British Columbia as very cost effective. The transfer of crown lands to MoE includes 248 ha of previously unprotected Crown land. 159 ha are existing MOE parks and by adding the NDL contribution this totals the MOE lands to 909 ha. It represents 17.8% of the Denman Island land area as parks. All protected lands which includes lands of Denman Conservancy Association, Island Trust Fund and conservation covenants amount to 24.8% of the Island's footprint. Denman Island now ranks third in the Gulf Islands for the amount of protected lands.

Representatives of the MoE indicated that they will work with the community on the designation of the park areas for recreational and conservation uses.

Peter Karsten, Laura Pope Co-Chairs Parks Committee