

Cross Island Trail

Maintenance review, December 2015 – May 2016

The Trails Committee continues a rotation system whereby one of our committee members conduct weekly inspection walks of the completed trail to assess the condition of the trail and to pick-up litter, or work on a specific area of the trail that may need particular attention.

While maintenance requirements have not been so challenging during the colder months we feel that the pick-up of litter and visual checking the trails integrity is still required. It is a good time to cut back vegetation that may become problematic later, especially broom plants.

Grass is invading many sections of the trail but is not a hazard to people using the trail so it is generally agreed by our committee to do nothing about this problem. As the growing season has now arrived we are noticing several areas where thistles grow, pulling them is tough and we are actively looking for an herbicide free way of eliminating them.

We will continue to use our motorized hedge trimmer and weed eater in many places along the trail to cut back weeds, grasses and brush that invaded the pathway. Our practice of allowing the maintenance person to tackle specific problem areas up to twice a month have worked well and kept the trail clear for users.

The Trails Committee met up with Karin Albert and various interested Denman Islanders to walk and discuss the pros and cons of developing a section of the Corrigal Right of Way to become an integral part of the Cross Island Trail. Our committee support this use of the Right of Way and should it become part of the trail, it will be the only section of trail to be completely away from roads and the noise and dust associated with them.

Our committee look forward to meeting once again with Karin Albert later this month to discuss further extensions to the Cross Island Trail. While we are disappointed that there may not be more development of the trail this year, we do recognise that monies have been set aside for 2017 to continue the trail. At the above meeting we will also discuss the possibility of a trail up the side of Denman's Big Hill. Despite two proposals from the CVRD and letters from Islands Trust and DIRA it seems "Highways" at this time is not supportive of this trail. We, as a committee and Denman Islanders in general are most disappointed in 'Highways' lack of interest in the safety of our pedestrians and visitors alike that walk the hill on the same piece of road used by fast moving vehicles.

As noted in our last report we spent a total of \$1,629.51 of our last year's budget. In February DIRA reported that the CVRD had paid \$500.00 into the Trails account. Am I correct in thinking that further monies will be forthcoming from the CVRD to cover our expenditures from last year?

The Cross Island Trail continues to be very popular with Islanders and the addition of more trail is eagerly awaited.

I trust the CVRD find this report useful and we will be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the Cross Island Trail.

Sincerely, Allan Danks, Chair, DIRA Trails Committee