

DIRA Chairs Parks Report - November 18 2024

In the previous report submitted for the AGM we mentioned a couple of projects that I'll give a quick update on.

Parks Trail Map

We did get the Denman Parks trails map in the 24/25 Hornby Denman Tourist Guide. I have had no complaints, so I'm optimistic the effort to accurately map the trails while keeping private property separate from trail users was a success. The QR code ad did go onto the fold out Denman page.

Largo Road Beach Access

We also had a plan to walk the MOTI access from Lacon south of MacFarlane, down to the beach via an unopened road access that is marked on the maps as Largo Rd. The PC did this twice and felt it was feasible.

Our hope was to create a walking trail access to the beach to allow a loop walk from Hinton Rd to Largo and back up along Lacon. We had

asked CVRD to see about getting a License of Occupation for the MOTI access and to make it a CVRD mini park.

While the Largo Rd access itself is very accessible there are other issues. On Oct 1st I met with Daniel May from CVRD and we again walked it using our previous map of the trail. Dan brought the BC Archeology Registered Sites map of the same area and it shows a very extensive hillside and beach midden basically centered on Largo Rd. The midden is clearly visible on the beach and up onto the hillside.

At the time Dan felt that it could be difficult to do a trail on this area as the midden is so extensive, and that just to apply for MOTI permissions would be much more expensive than in the past. Now, given what has recently happened with the CIT construction and the added requirements when working in any area within 200 meters of the water, it would be very challenging to get approval for the Largo Rd access. We left it that Dan would confer with his superiors and that CVRD could potentially confer with the neighbors in the

area to see if there was enough support in the area to move ahead with applying for a permit.

The Big Hill

Attached to this report is the history of the CIT and the history of how the Big (Graffiti) Hill has impacted the trail. From 2013 until now this hill has been a gap that seems to be unsolvable. Sections of trail get to the Big Hill and stop at both the top and bottom. CVRD has raised the issue of the gap in the trail with MOTI in 5 meetings over a period of 10 years and MOTI has been basically immovable on every potential solution that has been brought forward. In the meantime there have been multiple car accidents and two serious accidents involving bike riders. This of course does not include the many, many accidents that have taken place over the last 40 years.

In May I had a conversation with David Larue from MOTI. I advanced the idea of additional signage at the top and bottom of the hill using signs already on Denman. I gave MOTI a couple of months to see if any signage would be placed. Nothing has happened. MOTI has some

strict rules that apply to signs but as the signs requested are already on Denman in three separate locations they must be usable on the verge at the top and bottom of the hill.

The signs that seem most appropriate are large yellow diamond signs that say **Multi Use Shoulder** - and under that is wording that says **Horses, Cyclists and Pedestrians**. Given the additional volume of ferry traffic in the summer, with groups of cars in the 45 - 50 range all heading up or down this hill hourly, something needs to be done to make it as safe as possible for ALL users of the road. MOTI's take on it is that if the signage that is already there is followed, it is as safe as it can be. I disagree. I see this signage as a stopgap measure for extra awareness while the longer term safety issue of the hill is looked at and finally solved - before there is loss of life.

I would like MOTI to place the additional signs as soon as possible and then to plan a meeting with members of our community on ways that this very dangerous hill can be made safer.

I would like to write a letter on behalf of DIRA to David Larue (MOTI) and Kellen Truant (MOTI) With CC to Daniel Arbour (Area A Director) to Doug DeMarzo (CVRD Manager). The letter would outline our concerns and ask for a meeting as soon as possible.

Thanks

Laura Pope

Chair DIRA Parks Committee