

Sept 9 2012.

DIRA Parks Committee Activity Report. Last Report April 2012.

The Parks Cttee has held regular monthly meetings since our last report. We continue to have a lively and excellent group of Cttee members who attend and contribute with both in time and knowledge.

Representatives from the Denman Fire Dept., the DCA, Trails Cttee and Parks Cttee met to work on a comprehensive map of trails and roads currently accessible to hikers, riders, and bikers on Denman for use by Denman Fire Dept. in case of need for rescue or fire fighting purposes.

Members of the Parks Cttee met with Rob Friberg of the Ecosystem Restoration Associates (ERA) to participate in the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance standards review process. This process was to assess the level of community satisfaction with ERAs carbon sequestration program. This review affected only the northern area of the MOE lands.

The Parks Cttee and Trails Cttee chairs and Peter Karsten (DCA) met to create an operating agreement to more accurately reflect and identify the two DIRA Cttee's responsibilities in regards to trails planning and construction on lands currently managed by the Ministry of Environment. Trails and Parks Cttees membership and the DIRA executive have had a chance to review and approve this new agreement.

Parks Cttee with help from DCA created a natural barrier using plants and materials at hand to block off an area just south of the Pickles Bridge that had been damaged by vehicles parking and turning.

At the end of August the chairs of Parks, Trails and Peter Karsten (DCA) met with Derek Moore, area supervisor for the Von Donop region of Provincial Parks. We were looking for some guidance from Derek on how we as DIRA Cttees can best deal with the many issues which arise from the MOE lands in their current status as protected while at the same time with no budget and no "official" planning possible until the lands are transferred to Provincial Parks. Derek still feels that there is little likelihood of the change in status for possibly 3-4 years. There was some hope that the north Denman park area would be transferred in the

fall legislative session. This seems unlikely. Derek also stressed that with such a large area to manage and no budget for Denman he would like one point of contact, which can be an on island liaison. The task of the contact will be to identify the issue, find a solution, contact Derek and carry out the necessary problem solving. As such with Derek's blessing we are hoping to form a Parks Advisory Team consisting of Peter Karsten (DCA) Alan Danks (Trails) and myself Laura Pope (Parks). The model will be consistent with the Wildlife Advisory Cttee, which has been very successful. The Parks Cttee will continue to work with Derek as DIRAs liaison.

We also discussed Boyle Point Parks current lack of budget. The Parks Cttee would like to acknowledge to huge time and energy commitment undertaken by Leo Jansen – who for years single handedly kept Boyle Point in great shape. With no budget and no actual caretaker Boyle Point has now become a “carry in, carry out” park. The outhouse and trails will no longer get regular maintenance or stocking of T.P. etc. We hope to rectify this next summer with a grant to hire a local student, but this will have to be worked on over the winter. There was sad news about the eagle's nest at the point as it was severely damaged and the chick died. The good news is that the boardwalk has had new non-slip mesh applied which should reduce the extremely slippery surface during the winter months.

Derek Moore will be coming to Denman for a familiarization trip of the MOE designated lands at the end of Sept. and he will be assessing the various areas with an eye to our continued voluntary upkeep of the existing trails we currently enjoy.

Laura Pope
Chair - DIRA Parks Cttee.