

Parks Committee Report Year End December 2012.

The DIRA Parks Cttee continues to thrive with a great group of volunteers who faithfully attend meetings and work bees . We have representatives from DIRA, Trails Committee, DCA and an active cohort of islanders.

The PC continues to work cooperatively with Derek Moore, our region parks manager. We had two visits from him this fall where he was able to tour all the MOE lands and familiarize himself with the proposed parks. As of the present we still have no official designation, however all the legal work to create the new provincial park is complete. Perhaps we will finally get some good news in regards to this in the spring legislative session.

The parks committee created the PAS (Parks Advisory Service) this fall as a means to aid Derek Moore and parks service personnel in handling problems that may arise on Denman's MOE lands and in the CVRD parks on the island. The volunteers for this group are:

*Alan Danks for DIRA Andrew Fyson for DCA Laura Pope for Parks Cttee
Peter Karsten for CVRD Liaison.*

The PC will be helping to organize a training session in February/March for volunteers to recognize, locate and record Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly larvae and adult butterflies in the North Denman Lands under the direction of the invertebrate specialist and conservation specialist of the MOE and BC Parks administration. **The goal is to document the extant distribution and population density of the species in the 492 ha northern future park area to determine the best location of a 10 ha Butterfly reserve. The Checkerspot is a "disturbance dependent" species and thrives in open meadows and forest clearings. Denman Island had good populations between 2005 and 2010. The butterfly had been declared extirpated from its range in Canada when Jenny Balke re-discovered it in 2005 on Denman Island. The forest is growing up again after the extensive logging, which actually aided the growth of light-hungry plant species the larvae of the butterfly feeds on. The butterfly reserve will need specific and active habitat management to support the species for the future. Volunteers will be welcome!**

Not all the projects members of the PC had in mind for 2012 were accomplished however we have a dynamic committee that welcomes participation from any interested islanders. Look for activities and events from the PC in 2013. If you have an interest to become part of any Parks Committee activity please contact the PC chair Laura Pope 250 335 – 1203.