

DIRA Parks Committee Report for AGM.

The Parks Cttee continues to be a great group of volunteers who love parks and actively enjoy working on the continuing issues associated with the MOE Lands on Denman. The Parks Cttee has recently attracted a few new members which is very positive news.

The new Denman Provincial Park and Boyle Point Protected Area were officially created by the provincial government on March 28th. The Parks Cttee have an excellent working relationship with our Senior Parks Ranger, Derek Moore and I am happy to report that he has the regular position which means long term continuity for us going forward. Denman Parks Cttee will continue to work with Derek as the official management plan is developed for the new parks. Derek Moore and provincial parks staff will be coming to Denman sometime this spring or summer to do a public meeting which will provide more detail on the long term planning for Denman Park and Boyle Point Protected Area. It is worth noting that Hornby has had official status for their Park for approximately 10 years and still do not have an official management plan. We will have lots of time to work with Parks staff to create the best plan for all the various Park areas on Denman.

The Parks Cttee has been working with Jennifer Heron, a MOE biologist on a program to help islanders in tracking and identifying the Taylor Checkerspot Butterfly and will continue this work with walks and workshops as the weather warms up and the butterfly larvae emerge. Peter Karsten is official co-chair of the Checkerspot Community Working Group, working alongside Jennifer Heron. Part of this work will be to identify a 10 hectare area in the northern area of the new Park to be set aside as a protected zone for the butterflies.

The Parks Cttee continues to work collaboratively with the Trails Cttee to undertake maintenance of existing trails.

The Parks Cttee is an open and friendly Cttee. We welcome new members and would be happy to discuss any issue related to Parks with islanders who may have questions and concerns.

Our executive is Laura Pope as Chair, Ralph McQuaig as Vice Chair and Tim Fuchs as secretary.

We meet regularly on the first Wednesday of the month at the Firehall at 10:00. Please feel free to call the chair at 335-1203 if you have any questions or need more information.

Submitted by Laura Pope