

The Friends of Mt. Douglas Park Society

Annual General Meeting

7:30 p.m., January 20th 1993

at

Claremont Senior Secondary

School Cafeteria

4980 Wesley Road

Agenda

Annual Reports

Election of Officers

Natural parks, Coastlines and Hilltops

vs.

Urban Growth

Glencoe Cove Status Report

The Friends of Mt. Douglas Park Society

January 1993 Newsletter

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1. The Charter

On Sunday, the 22nd of November, Saanich Council held a unique council meeting at the top of Mt. Douglas where they received the Park from the Province and then enacted the Mt. Douglas Park Bylaw. This was followed by the unveiling of a bronze plaque engraved with the new charter:

Mount Douglas Park Charter

The lands known as Mount Douglas Park are hereby reserved in perpetuity to the protection and preservation of the natural environment for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public.

This land has been transferred by the Province of British Columbia to the Corporation of the District of Saanich on the condition that it be maintained and preserved as a public park.

With this charter, the spirit and intent of the original crown grant of 1889 is maintained while its scope is expanded to include within Mount Douglas Park all adjacent municipal parklands, present and future, so that the whole will continue as a wilderness preserve for generations to come.

Proclaimed this 22nd day of November, 1992, by the Council of the Corporation of the District of Saanich on behalf of the citizens of Saanich.

The plaque is located next to the summit parking lot near the new observation deck.

2. Road

The road was closed during November and part of December to repair the most dangerous section using the techniques the consultants and engineers described at the public hearing. As it cost \$500,000 to repair 30 metres of road and there are another 500 metres in almost the same deplorable condition, there is a major incentive to reduce the wear and tear on the road. Much has been said about this topic during the last year; the following represents a summary of the public statements by Saanich Council and administration:

- It will remain a two lane road.
- The avenue of trees with its canopy will be preserved.
- The character of the road will remain as a park road; it will not become a parkway.
- A bicycle path will be constructed through the park.
- The truck restriction will remain in place.
- A chip trail leading from the Blenkinsop Road and Royal Oak intersection to the park entrance by the motel will probably be installed.
- The road approaches to the Park should be in harmony with the natural ambiance the Park presents to the traveler.

We have had some discussions with the engineering department on these matters and also concerning the installation of road humps/cross walks at the major trail road crossings. We are scheduled to have our input ready before the resurfacing begins in mid-1993.

3. Coalition news

In the past year there have been two meetings. The first, prior to the public meeting about the Park road, showed there were many views concerning the possible closure of the road, while the second, in the fall, showed there were many areas of common concern highlighted by the theme for our upcoming meeting; Natural Parks, foreshore, and hilltops. It is also clear there is an overall concern for any develop taking place east of the Pat Bay Highway and north of McKenzie Avenue.

4. Natural Parks, Foreshore, and Hilltops

During discussions of the Saanich Official Community plan, it was obvious there was no mechanism for directly addressing concerns over the use and abuse of the foreshore. Several groups and their representatives have indicated the problems of natural parks, foreshore and hilltops have many common characteristics and all are under threat. There does not seem to be any common voice of support for them, nor any official unified stand.

5. Trails

The park trail system continues to deteriorate. Saanich Parks Department has said that they will install sign posts within the next month or so indicating the main trails. The drawing of these sign posts suggest that they will blend into the natural setting quite well. Hopefully marking the primary trails will help to reduce the proliferation of adhoc trails that have recently emerged.

6. Fires

As you know there was a major fire and several small ones in the park this summer. This highlighted the dangers involved when increasing numbers of people explore large areas of forest with tinder dry ground cover. The fire department has indicated they prefer not to close parks during fire season since the majority of park users are very conscientious and act as an early warning system and fires are reported earlier than if the park were closed.

7. The future

With the charter established, our vision for the park nearly complete, and the road issue contained within fairly clear boundaries, it is time to consider the future course of action and interests of our Society. The subject of discussion at our next meeting should provide the pointers we need. The topic of natural parks, foreshore, and hill tops has come out of various discussions we have had with other community groups and various levels of government over the last year or so. One thing is clear, while our interests may change, they must not lapse, otherwise we will be back to the situation that existed through the 80's.

8. Nominations

This a call for nominations to fill four places on the executive. If you would like to serve for a term, or would like to nominate a friend, please contact Pam Lewis at 658-5039. Elections are for Society director positions, the individual offices are assigned at the first meeting of the executive following the A.G.M. and tend to follow the main interests of the individual directors. Nominations close Monday, the 18th. of January 1993. There will be no nominations at the meeting itself.

9. Membership

Memberships are on a calendar year basis and most expire in December. The expiry date of your membership is printed on your address label. We hope you will support The Friends for another year. You may send the membership fee using the form below or drop by the membership desk at the next meeting. If there is no date or a "C" on your address label instead of the usual membership expiry date, you have received a complimentary newsletter. We hope you also will be interested in joining The Friends of Mt. Douglas Park Society

Membership for 1993; send \$5.00 and this form to:

The Friends of Mt Douglas Park Society
4635 Cordova bay Road Victoria B.C. V8X 3V6 (658-2200)

Name.....

Street.....

City

Postal code..... Phone