

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Bill Summerville. The main activities of the year, especially of the past year, were made in the last newsletter. Hal Knight asked about supporting the group opposed to the changes in the industry, and operators of the 9th & 10th Hills. The Members were encouraged to find out more about the changes and to express their views. A report, which showed we have a balance of \$1000.00 in the bank. An update of the report was moved by Hal Knight and seconded by Darrell Wick. It passed unanimously.

Darrell Wick then outlined the changes that have been made over the past year. The new park found by the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society was by the way of the old municipal government. A new Peter Parker was made from the membership for the past year along the mountain.

NEWSLETTER

May 1996

Mr. Lewis presented the names of Claude Maurice, Lisa Cook and Janet Clague who had been the first to start writing to us in the 1950s. They were the first to start writing to us in the 1950s. They were the first to start writing to us in the 1950s. They were the first to start writing to us in the 1950s.

We had three good speakers for the evening. The first of the night was Mr. Nelson, who had been the first to start writing to us in the 1950s. He provided by the school didn't work. They had a good time.

The speakers were holding a very lively session while the afternoon lunch was being served out. The first of the night was Mr. Nelson, who had been the first to start writing to us in the 1950s. He provided by the school didn't work. They had a good time.

'96 Rankin
Mr./Mrs. K.W.
4285 Cedar Hill Rd.
Victoria V8N 3C7

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting—29th February 1996

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. Graham Shorthill summarized the main activities of the year, essentially elaborating the points made in the last newsletter. Hal Knight asked about supporting the group opposed to the changes in the management and operation of the Sooke Hills watershed. Members were encouraged find out more about the issue and to write and express their concerns individually. In the absence of the Treasurer, Graham gave the financial report, which showed we have a balance of \$ 1018.08 in the bank. Acceptance of the report was moved by Hal Knight and seconded by Darrell Wick: it passed unanimously.

Darrell Wick briefly outlined the acquisitions that have been made over the last few years along the western boundary of the park, with a map indicating where the new park boundary will be when the dust settles. The last piece acquired was by lease from the provincial government within the Seven Oaks property. Andrew Petter received warm thanks from the membership for his part in securing this arrangement.

Pam Lewis presented the names of Claude Maurice, Lisa Evans and Sheilagh Ogilvie, who had indicated that they would be willing to serve on the Executive in the 1996 term. They were elected to the three vacancies by acclamation. Many thanks to out-going members Orvil MacGregor and Roger Behler for their work.

We had three guest speakers for the evening, but the hero of the night was Henry Niessen, who rushed home and collected two slide projectors when the one provided by the school didn't work. Many thanks Henry!

The speakers were nothing if not versatile, so while the audiovisual glitch was being sorted out, Jennifer Sutherst gave an excellent and comprehensive view of the stream stewardship program and what it entails for groups that embark on it. She had many positive things to say about the restoration of the creek in the park (contact Bob Bridgeman for details).

David Lock of the B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers spoke next, and his perspective was "here's what can be done with five to eight years of work." He tells us we can have a stream with fish in it running through the park if we are prepared to take the trouble and to give them a chance.

Finally, Andrew Petter showed slides of the new parks that have been created in the province. The photography was stunning, and the enduring legacy it displayed represents an achievement of a very high order.

A pleasant evening ended with a sense of a new direction and possibilities.

Board of Directors 1996/97

President	Kenneth Rankin	4285 Cedar Hill Road V8N 3C7	477-8007
Past President	Darrell Wick	1491 Edgemont Road V8N 4P7	477-9291
Treasurer	Graham Shorthill	4623 Cordova Bay Road V8X 3V6	658-5873
Secretary	Sheilagh Ogilvie	515 Carnation Place V8X 6G6	479-4281
Acquisitions	Claude Maurice	2200 Lorne Terrace V8S 2H8	598-7407
Streams	Robert Bridgeman	1481 Elnido Road V8N 4Z7	477-7464
Trails	Lisa Evans	2590 MacDonald Drive V8N 1X8	721-3910

The Questionnaire

Twenty-two of the questionnaires sent out to present and past members of the Friends were completed and returned.

Goals that respondents felt the society should set itself included

- acquiring parkland;
- calming traffic along Cordova Bay Road;
- replanting the mountain;
- preserving the shoreline and protecting it against misguided engineering measures;
- protecting the wilderness character of the park;
- reducing human impact on the park;
- effectively banishing bicycles of all kinds from the park trails; and
- discouraging Saanich Council from thinking of running a 4-lane truck route through the park.

The response to requests for participation was gratifying.

- Three people want to work with heritage trees;
- Nine volunteered for creek restoration;
- Six will help with broom clearing;
- Six want to plant trees;
- Three are interested in birding;
- Six volunteered for trail building;
- Three will assist in general activities.

Several people volunteered in more than one category. With this active support, we can go ahead with these projects as need arises. Those who volunteered will be contacted, and any other offers of help will be gladly received.

The Creek

The unnamed creek that we call Douglas Creek runs out of two large culverts north of Robinwood Drive, and wends its way through a verdant riparian corridor to empty itself onto the sands of the beach in Mount Douglas Park.

For some time we have realized that the creek is in trouble. Most of the watershed that feeds the creek has been paved over. This fact is reflected in the short flood and drought flow cycle of the water in the creek. Urban pollution can, to some extent, be detected in water samples taken by the Friends' Creek Restoration Committee.

It is the object of the Creek Restoration Committee to enhance the viability of the wet habitat as a natural feature of the park. To this end, we are currently monitoring water quality at three different locations in the creek, once each week. We are testing for dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH and water temperature. We intend to use our long-term data to assess the fish-bearing potential of the creek.

We have long realized that controlling the pollution problem in the creek begins at source. Consequently, we have decided to expand our program to include marking storm drains in our watershed with a yellow fish symbol. This is basically an information campaign.

This is just the beginning of a long-term project. We have plenty of room to expand our directions.

If you are interested in taking part in some way, please call Bob Bridgeman any evening at 477-7464.

**If you haven't yet purchased your 1996/97 membership,
why not do it now?**

The Sea Wall

On Monday, the 6th of May, Saanich Council was to consider the latest information about construction of riprap on the beach at the foot of the Mount Douglas cliffs. However, this discussion did not take place: Rick Lloyd of the municipal Engineering Department withdrew the item at the last moment due, he claimed, to receipt of a letter of comment from the Friends and because the most recent consultant had not yet come up with a report.

Our letter brought the status of the issue up to date. A letter from the Ministry of Lands highlighted the fact that the Saanich proposal that reached the Ministry did not address the crucial problem of water in the upper slopes of the cliff. As a result, the proposed structure would, in their opinion, fail to stabilize the road. A report from Thurber Consultants, commissioned by the Engineering Department, indicates that Council does have the option of postponing construction of the sea wall and reconsidering priorities.

In view of this information, the Friends have proposed the following plan of action:

- Install an adequate and environmentally-sound drainage system to reduce the effects of subsidence and slippage immediately under the road;
- Create a distinctive park road, using the covered drains to incorporate bike lanes and pedestrian access, together with other cost-effective measures to calm traffic, reduce wear-and-tear on the road, and so extend its life;
- Put in place a monitoring program that will give both clear data about what is actually happening at the site and adequate warning of any impending danger;
- Produce a design that meets all regulations and addresses the many issues this type of construction produces;
- Do *not* call for tenders until the monitoring program clearly shows that work on the toe of the slope is genuinely required.

continued over...

The immediate benefits of the postponement option include:

- much lower immediate costs for the taxpayer;
- a vast reduction in environmental damage;
- conservation of the beach and fish habitat;
- a genuine park road that will be an asset to the broader community, not just to motorists;
- replacement of computer simulations and examples imported from elsewhere by long-term data that is relevant to the real situation.

By starting the road stabilization by removing the water in the banks, and by delaying construction of a sea wall until there is definite evidence that it is required, everyone stands to gain—the taxpayer, the environment, and all travelers through the park.

If you haven't purchased your 1996/97 membership to

The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society

DO IT NOW

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Please fill in this form and mail it to: **Graham Shorthill**
4623 Cordova Bay Road
Victoria, BC V8X 3V6