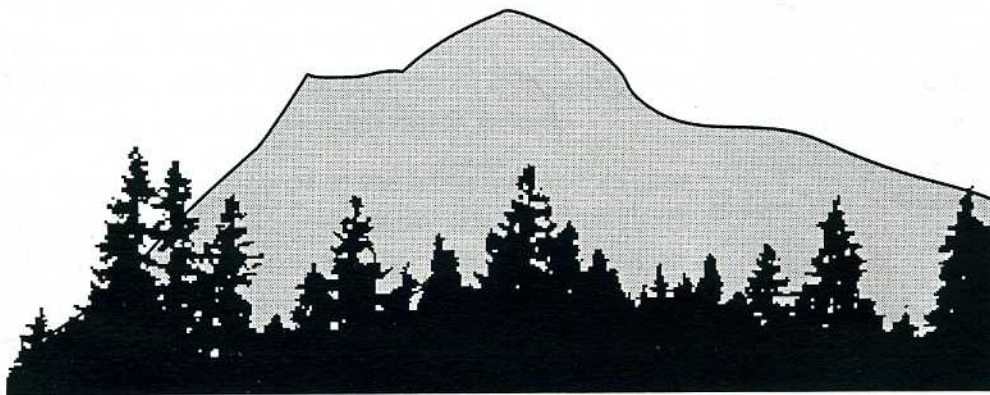


The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society

NEWSLETTER

September 1999



Anniversary Issue

Two Anniversaries

President's Message

Reckoning from one date, Mount Douglas Park is now 141 years old. The rump of the present park was set aside by Sir James Douglas in 1858 as a Crown Reserve, According to one of our sources, church and military were the intended beneficiaries of this arrangement. Of how exactly they may have put it to use, if at all, we have no record.

Reckoning from another date, the 110th anniversary of the Park as such falls in the present year. In 1889 the original donation was re-established in the official form of a Crown Grant: this time around its use solely as parkland, and for the purpose of pleasure, was stipulated in unequivocal terms.

Since the 10th anniversary of our Society's foundation also falls in 1999, we hope that Sir James, wherever he is now, will not resent that we take the last of the two anniversaries as the occasion for the present retrospective view.

As in the original Eden, from quite early years our Park has been the scene of struggle between forces of good and evil. Extraction of gravel, tree felling, the straightening of Cordova Bay Road from the Ash Road junction to the gravel pit, the dumping of garbage and the grazing of goats have been among the workings of the latter of these two forces. Fortunately, the Park had its friends and active whistleblowers long before our society came into being, otherwise the damage would have been much worse.

Unlike our forerunners, however, we have had the advantage of the cooperation of a municipality whose councillors and staff have been environmentally more sensitive than many of their predecessors. We have also had invaluable help at the ministerial level from the province.

During our 10 years of activity, and as a result of this cooperation:

- plans for subdividing land out of the Park have been cancelled;
- alternatives to unsightly riprap to strengthen the foreshore banks have been implemented;

[continued over]

Mount Douglas Park

Height: 222 metres

Extent: 435 acres (1992)

A survivor of the Ice Age, Mount Douglas a "monadnock," — that is, its material is harder than the surrounding ground.

When the natives paddled over to Vancouver Island from the San Juans, they pulled their canoes up on Mount Douglas beach. The beach was also a stop for the Songhees on their way from up-island to Fort Victoria. It was called the 'hill of the cedars.'

1843

When the Hudson Bay Company built Fort Victoria, uprights were needed for the palisade. The Songhees cut 22-foot cedar pickets from Mount Douglas, and carried them in to the site of the fort, travelling back and forth along present Cedar Hill Road. They were paid a blanket for every 600 cedar poles.

1845

Captain John Gordon, brother of the foreign secretary of the time, came to Fort Victoria for a visit. He was taken on a hunting trip to the "hill of cedars." He did not catch his deer. Subsequently, Gordon was said to have claimed that he "would not give the most barren hills in the Highlands of Scotland for all I see around me."

1852

The first settler in the Mount Douglas area was James Tod (son of the HBC chief trader, John Tod). He purchased land near the mountain in 1853 and called it Spring Farm. He built his first house in 1857, his second in 1869, and farmed there for 52 years after that.

1858

In 1858, James Douglas reserved the mountain and some surrounding land for military, school and church purposes.

1859

In March, 1859, Captain G.H. Richard's wrote the Hydrographer of the Royal Navy explaining how "Cedar Hill," though small and insignificant, came to be known as Mount Douglas. "...it has been much the fashion here to give the term *Mountain* to elevations which are by no means entitled to that description. I have taken the liberty of reducing all under 1000 feet to Hills, except for Mount Douglas, which I have retained as a mountain although only 690 feet, partly from not wishing to lower the Governor [James Douglas] and partly because Douglas *Hill* does not sound well...."

1862

E.B. Jackson, who had a farm on the mountain, wrote the Colonial Secretary asking that he might fence in and lease these acres

[next page]

- radio facilities at the summit have been made scenically less intrusive than originally planned;
- Garry oak seedlings have been planted in areas from which broom and blackberry vines have been cleared;
- cedar seedlings have been planted in areas of forest that have been levelled by wind due to exposure by boundary development;
- the decrepit old flume that channeled drainage water from Cordova Bay Road into the Creek has been replaced by a more efficient and less obtrusive system;
- the flow of water down the creek, and the quality of that water, have been brought under better control through the construction of a weir;
- the limits of the Park on the west side are in process of being extended to the valley treeline through the purchase by Saanich, piece-by-piece, of privately-owned land;
- a linkage to the Greenways system that passes through the Blenkinsop Valley has been improved by the upgrading of the Mercer Trail, thanks in part to a grant from the Provincial Capital Commission;
- through cost-sharing with Beautiful British Columbia Magazine, a helicopter lifted in Saanich's chipper, so that broom cut on the west (and more inaccessible) side of the Park has been disposed of;
- plans for the reintegration of the former gravel pit into the Park have been prepared and are about to be implemented.

Another activity of our Society that has involved such bodies as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and groups from various local schools as well as municipal staff has been the introduction of salmonids into the Creek. Work on this project is ongoing, and already there is promise that the Creek will turn into a fish-bearing stream.

This is also the place to pay tribute to the many volunteers who, over the past 10 years, have been involved in broom bashing, blackberry eradication, ivy clearing, and various of the activities already mentioned above.

Projects and Volunteers

The phone rings and you hear Jane Owen's or Celia Esmonde's pleasant voice inviting you to a happy broom-pulling session or a merry morning clearing brambles so that Garry Oaks can be planted and your response is

Over the last ten years we have carried out a number of volunteer projects in the Park with varying degrees of success, but the biggest factor leading to success has been the response to the call for volunteers

In the early days our goals were modest and the projects short. On the west side a small team rerouted a trail, and built water bars to help drainage and control erosion. Overall, they provided the hiker with a pleasant pathway through the woods which has lasted for years. It took several weekends of hard manual work but it worked.

The dangers of invasive broom have been obvious to all for a long time and, more recently, ivy has come to be seen as a major threat to the trees it climbs on. The task of removing both these species by themselves arouse strong negative images for most people because they know it can be a never-ending battle to keep these plants under control.

In a sense we have been lucky, At the time the phones first started to ring for broom-pullers, we were also looking at the possibility of planting Garry Oaks and providing space to sustain the wild flowers in an alpine meadow. We walked through several likely sites with Hans Roemer and from those discussions we chose three specific sites rather than trying to tackle the whole Park. The three areas were the summit, the meadow above the Mercer Trail and the area near the fire road and Cedar Hill Road.

At the summit we tried clearing broom by ourselves and had some limited success, but the major change came when a group of people who had been pulling broom on Mt Tolmie and Cattle Point came in for a day or so. The intense effort produced a total transformation for those people walking from the parking lot to the lookout. They have clear views to the Sooke Hills, the Strait and Cordova Bay.

The work in the alpine meadow began with the two ladies clearing enormous quantities of broom and collecting it into piles around the knoll. Our role was to help with this task but, more importantly, to bring it all to one location where it

(he suggested a rent of ten pounds a year). His request was turned down "principally because it has long been a place of habitual resort to the citizens of Victoria in holiday times."

1863

Pioneer farmers James Tod and Samuel Norn had both misjudged the bounds of their properties and were using some of the government reserve land. Norn had broken up 32 acres and even erected a house and farm buildings on them. Tod had fenced in 13 acres. The matter was settled in this year by a trading of acres between the farmers and the government.

At this time, deer in large numbers still roamed among the trees on Mount Douglas. Local young men would drive the deer down to the beach so they could get a clear shot at them.

1870

At the intersection of Harrop and Whittaker trails on the west slope of the mountain, a mine shaft was dug, in an attempt to extract copper ore. It was not successful. However, the headline of the September 2, 1870 issue of the Colonist newspaper, read "Is Mount Douglas a Mountain of Gold?" Apparently, flakes of gold had been found in a piece of quartz there. The headline created great excitement, but the gold rush did not happen.

1880

The Colonist of September 22 reported, under the headline "Marine Monster," that "a fish wherewith the piscatorial savantes of this city appeared indifferently acquainted was caught Monday off Cedar Hill.....Its unusual proportions and strange appearance attracted a large number of spectators." It was said to be "six feet two inches in length", with a "head that resembled a panther." Its species was never definitely identified, although "wolf-fish" and "herring king" were suggested.

1889

On September 30, 1889, the Province of British Columbia granted Mount Douglas to the Corporation of the City of Victoria "upon trust to maintain and preserve the same as a public park or pleasure ground for the use, recreation and enjoyment of the public."

1900s

The part of the Park close to the water became a popular site for outings. At this time it was called "Hyde Park."

1902

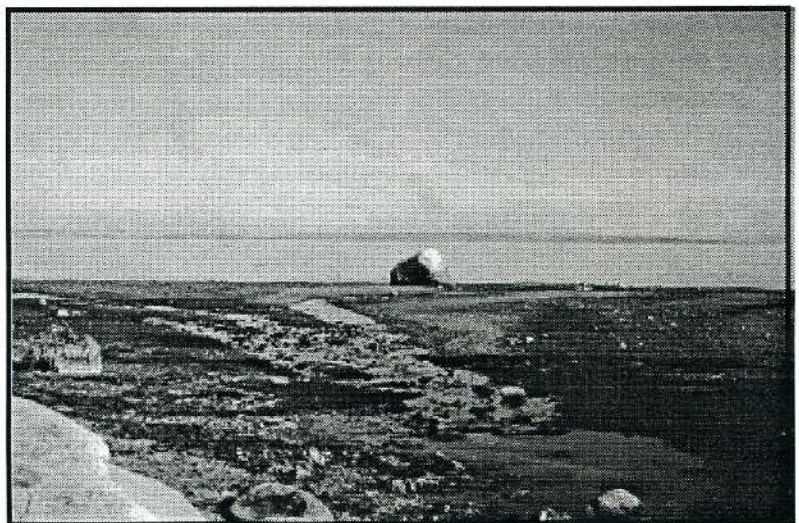
The Park is said to be "only a two-mile walk from the Royal Oak Station of the Sidney Railway."

could be chipped and dispersed. This involved Saanich Parks, Beautiful British Columbia Magazine and a helicopter from the airport to fly the chipper to and from this remote location. Again, the result was a transformation of a broom-infested site. This spring the dominant colour against the green background was blue rather than yellow for the first time in a generation.

For those readers who have been following the salmon restoration project in the creek, the pattern will be familiar; after an initial assessment to see if restoration was possible, groups such as the Girl Guides, the Scouts, provincial and federal governments, Saanich Parks, various schools etc., have participated with us to make sure we have a fish-bearing stream in our neighbourhood. All this activity has also led to the discovery of a sensitive ecosystem close to the creek which has been "adopted" by a group at the University of Victoria— our first spin-off !

For the future we still need volunteers, of that there is no doubt, but we achieve our greatest success when we manage to draw in a group or groups of people with a particular interest into a larger overall project.

So, if you have friends who share your interests, please bring them along. The progress will be faster and the sense of achievement more exhilarating. The stream project will continue for the foreseeable future, the alpine meadow needs tending, the old quarry needs to be replanted, nothing has been done along the beach, are there any birdwatchers out there who would like compile a list of sitings and nesting areas?



The Road and Drains Saga

In the last newsletter, it looked as if we would, at last, have a simple but completed path from Royal Oak Drive to the park entrance at the motel for pedestrians to use. Centra Gas was due to install a gas line along the side of the road and the flagged route followed the path we wanted. We wrote to the municipal engineers trying to enlist their help in ensuring that the finished work would give the community the simple walkway it needs.

First the good news, you can walk in reasonable safety from Royal Oak Drive to the Park if you use the gravel path on the right-hand side of the road, cross at the bus stop (a future crosswalk?) and walk to the next bus stop, cross the road again and join the trail system at the park entrance. From this brief description you can see that what we have is far from ideal.

The bad news is that when Centra Gas came and installed the line they did not complete the job; there is still a section to be added. In addition, the municipal arborist felt some trees might be in danger. However, the major delaying factor seems to be the possibility that sewers will be installed here sooner rather than later.

Residents of this area have tried over the years to maintain the old Cordova Bay lifestyle but the transformation of south Cordova Bay, particularly the developments at Sunnymead and north Blenkinsop, has made this less and less realistic. And so a petition was prepared and presented to Council to have the area added to the sewer enterprise.

At the subsequent council meeting it emerged that there was a financial problem about adding the area to the sewer system without having all the rights-of-way in place and the location of the pumping station clearly identified. Council indicated that its intention was to sewer the area either in 2000 or 2001. The engineers were asked to meet with the residents within the next few months and to have a progress report ready for Council this year. The whole sense of the meeting was "it's time to do this".

At the planning stage we will work to see the full pedestrian walkway and the bicycle lanes are included in the project so that the good work that has been done within the Park over the last two years will be extended to the approach roads.

1910

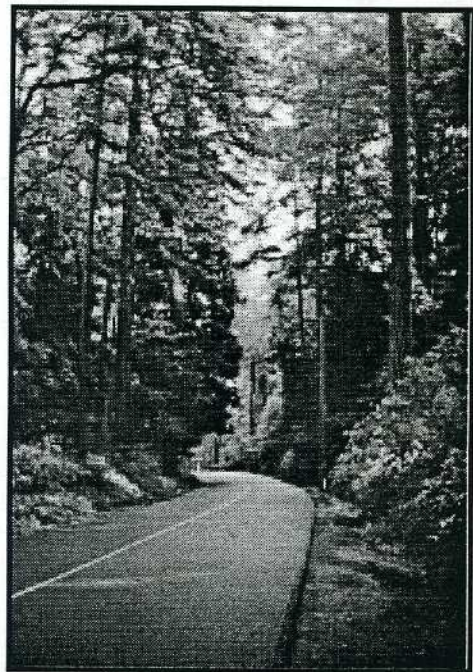
One-time mayor of Victoria Bert Todd proposed that a winding road be run to the top of Mount Douglas, and "a few totem poles and relics" scattered around, to attract automobiling tourists.

1915

By 1915, there was a bus route between Gordon Head and Cordova Bay.

1920s

There was a "refreshment place" near the Park entrance, run by Maude Hunter. Even in 1976 (according to an essay by Pete Schoepter, Claremont School) one could still see the stone fireplace of the original restaurant (which pre-dated the tearoom that was later established there).



1922

Bylaw 270 established an addition to the Park that brought it west to Blenkinsop Road.

1924

The SPCA claims the spring at Mount Douglas "is acting as a trap for squirrels." The Treasurer at Royal Oak writes to John Irvine; "I would be obliged if you would look into this matter and if possible remedy same, as dead squirrels and drinking water would not appear to be a good mixture." Irvine repaired it and made "a place for birds and squirrels to drink in a tank at the overflow."

1930

A Royal Commission was issued to O.C. Bass, K.C. "to inquire into the management, regulation, protection and control of the said Mount Douglas Park," due to complaints from concerned citizens about gravel excavation, garbage dumping, tree-cutting, goat grazing, and the construction of an alternate section of Cordova Bay Road. Hearings took place in early 1931. One official claimed that "the [gravel] pit at present may be unsightly, but a short time ago we fenced this off with a high painted board fence and are planting climbing roses up the same." Another claimed the gravel excavation was intended solely to create an amphitheatre in the Park. Mr. Bass declined to accept this statement and others like it. His report was highly critical of the local governments of the day.

The Stream

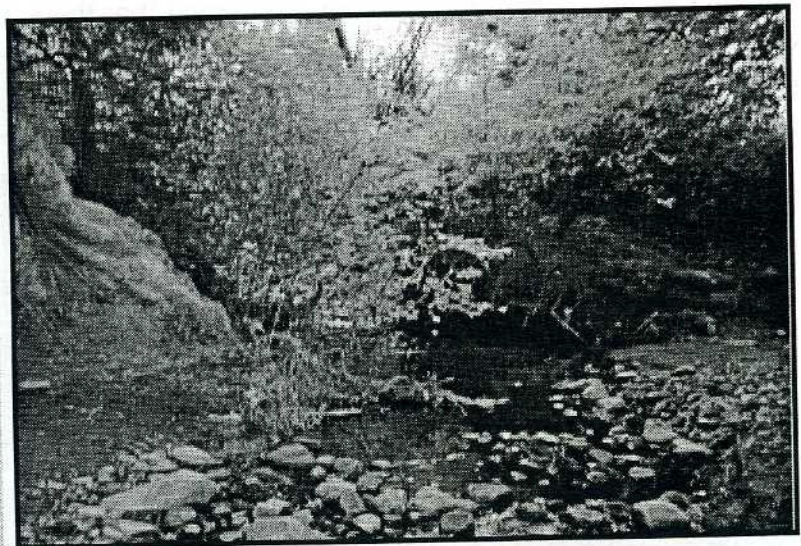
A Little Bit of History

When Europeans first came to this coast, what they found was a vast wilderness. Heavily forested, the landscape was naturally drained by streams and rivers that teemed with salmonids. Small aboriginal villages were clustered around the richness and bounty of these streams and rivers.

Through the centuries, physical and cultural sustenance centred around salmon populations. As the land was settled by new cultures, with different land ethics, streams and rivers again played a central role—but for other reasons. Streams and rivers were the highways of yore that opened up the landscape for exploration. Salmon, a seemingly renewable harvest, gained economic significance as the ocean was "farmed."

As populations increased, the landscape was affected. Very little thought was given to natural drainage or to forest ecosystems. Small streams were buried underground, and little by little the renewable salmon harvest dwindled.

Today, in our neighbourhood, the landscape is completely impacted by human settlement. Our streams have become extensions of a complex drainage system designed to drain the land to make it habitable. The natural ecosystems that remain are defined by natural park boundaries, the largest of which, in Saanich, is Mount Douglas Park.



You know about our efforts to allow natural processes to work in the Park. However, restoring a salmon population in the stream is not just about the fish. It is also about increasing the bounty of life. It's also about the legacy we leave for our children. A flourishing salmon population is a good indicator of the health of our way of living. The people before us didn't give enough thought to the environmental impact of the systems they built to live in. Today we live in them. And so it is up to us to restore natural processes where we can, to appreciate the diversity and complexity of those processes.

What We Have Been Doing

The second set of brochures was delivered to 5000 addresses in the watershed by the 10th Garry Oak Scout Troop. We shared costs with Saanich to create and install four signs that inform people that Douglas Creek is a fish habitat area. Two of the signs—one at the weir and one at the junction of the fire road and the Edgemont walk-through—lasted a matter of days. Both were pulled out and thrown into the creek. The sign at the fire road was dragged a hundred metres—a determined effort by vandals, since the bottom of the sign was weighted with a concrete block that I couldn't, by myself, pick up. Saanich promptly reinstalled the signs, one on the chain-link fence at the Robinwood walk-through, the other at the walk-through entrance at Edgemont.

Arbutus Junior Secondary students and teachers classroom-reared 300 coho fry. These were released into the creek in early May. This important component of environmental education and stream restoration continues to play an active role in our community. While we need the fish now, the educational component has long-term benefits in developing sustainable resources for the future.

On May 15th, seven friends of the Park turned out to clean litter out of the stream channel, from the Robinwood culvert down to the Ash Road bridge. We picked up a cubic metre of the usual assortment of plastic straws, chip bags, wrappers and plastic bags. Thanks to Saanich Parks for disposing of the bagged litter. We would very much like to see a rack set up at the weir to collect the rubbish there.

1930s

Depression make-work crews built Churchill Road to the summit. The huts constructed to house these crews were on what is now the washroom side of the Park entrance. By the end of the 30s they were being used as youth hostel accommodation, with straw-filled mats for beds.

Mid-30s

A small cedar coffee shop was built not far in from the Park gates. It was run by Mr. and Mrs. George Libby. Mr. Libby built it from cedars cut down in the Park.

1935

Erosion of the banks was already a concern.

1940s

The Park's second restaurant structure was run by Mrs. "Billy" Edwards, and at the peak of its success provided a full steak dinner for 35¢.

A jukebox was installed in the "refreshment place" and it became a hangout for teens.

Trails in the Park were created initially by the sheep raised on nearby farms. They bear the names of early settlers—the Merriman brothers, John Irvine, Samuel Norn, and George Blenkinsop of Glendenning Farm.

1942

Emily Carr, 71, already unwell, is reported to have said "The forest still has something to say to me." She spent ten days in August in Mount Douglas Park, living in one of the Depression huts and being fed three meals a day by Mrs. Edwards.

She is said to have produced 15 large sketches and a number of small ones at this time. "Cedar", now in the Vancouver Art Gallery, was painted among the trees by the "gully," about 75 yards from the Park entrance.

She said "It is a happy, comfortable little park, used by plain people."

1950s, 1960s

Little is recorded of the Park during these decades

1971—FIRE!

In August blazed through 10 acres on the west slope of the mountain.

Victoria CB Radio Club set up a fire patrol for Mount Douglas and Mount Tolmie. By October, they had carried out 180 patrols over 3027 miles and located 7 fires.

1972—FIRE!

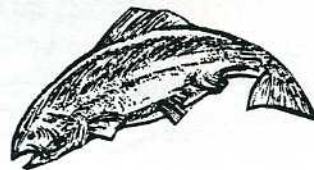
Out of control on Mount Douglas, this fire consumed 50 acres, and took 6 days to put out.

By this time, bank stabilization on Mount Douglas beach is reported as consisting of rock fill 15 feet high, and 150 feet long.

We met as a group with people from Saanich Parks and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to discuss introducing more large woody debris into the stream channel. Since there was not much windthrow last winter, we concentrated on what opportunities could be gleaned from large channel-spanning stems. The basic plan is to strategically cut the stem, allowing one end to fall into the channel. Thus begins a large woody debris structure with, ideally, a pool underneath. We have photographed the stems to be used. Saanich Parks has agreed to supply their professional staff to handle the bucking—not a job for amateurs—which involves a stem, up to five feet in circumference, in a partial state of decay. When they are in the channel, we will complete a detailed longitudinal survey around each piece—about 30 hours work. This establishes how things are at present so we can gauge how they have changed. I haven't yet lined up a crew for this work, so if you are interested you can call.

Our last setting of minnow traps on the 30th of May didn't capture any fish. We assume that these fish moved into the ocean, and we look forward to seeing them in two years time. Our program of introducing coho fry and monitoring them through time restarts this cycle of salmon in the Creek but also proves the potential of the Creek as salmon habitat. Now, knowing the winter portion of the life cycle is possible, we released 1500 coho fry from Goldstream hatchery into the Creek on June 27. Twenty friends of the Park and their families pitched in. It was a fine day and a pleasant event. Thanks to all.

Two weeks later I set up 4 minnow traps in woody debris piles in the Creek. Next day I measured and released 106 fry. Numerous fry were seen outside the traps and all along the channel, right down to a pool adjacent to the mouth of the stream. As I pen this, the storm drains are being flushed into the creek for the first time this summer. When the water clears we may be able to assess the toxic nature of the sediments. Bear in mind that even natural stocks of salmonids in unimpacted streams endure long periods of high toxicity, and are thus adapted to do so.



Recent Developments

- We were successful in garnering a USHP grant for the fiscal year 1999/2000. The objective of our proposal is to complete a year-long hydrographic survey, which should detail the volume of water moving down the stream channel, how quickly it is moving, extreme flows at low and high water and all the ranges in between. We are looking for limiting factors so we can develop strategies for mitigating them. We have contracted Carmanah Research to help us develop a program that collects and collates good scientific data. We are borrowing monitoring equipment from the Water Inventory Section of the Resources Monitoring Branch, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. A water inventory specialist will help us set up a hydrometric station somewhere around the Ash Road box culvert.
- The baffles in the culvert are due to be installed August 29th. Engineering and materials are being supplied by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. We need to supply some volunteers to help with the installation.
- Last year we did some stream monitoring in the Creek with the 1st Cordova Bay Pathfinders. We did some water quality monitoring, a benthic invertebrate survey, and some fish trapping and measuring. The monitoring was part of an effort funded by the Phyllis Munday Environmental Project. With funds left in this budget, the Pathfinders kindly donated a clinometer to the Society, for use in the stream assessments. This means a lot, since borrowing one involved more phone calls and more trips. Thank you very much, Pathfinders—we will use it well.
- This year B.C. Rivers Day is being celebrated Sunday, September 26th. For the last three years we have cleaned litter out of the stream on that day. This is the tentative plan again this year—unless someone comes up with something that is more fun and more interesting. Otherwise we will let people know by telephone the whens and wheres.

1975

The first riprap was put on the beach in hope of holding the bank. A program was also established to encourage growth on the clay banks.

FIRE!

It raged for 5 hours on the Cordova Bay/Blenkinsop side of Park in grass and bushland.

1977

The Sierra Club objects to the riprap on the beach. "Improving the Park, not merely halting erosion, should be the primary criterion in evaluating courses of action."

1978

The last motorcycle hill climb took place. The first was in 1919

This same year there was a rock concert at Mount Douglas that drew 8000 people

1980

Woodcutting is being allowed in the Park.

1989

Tons of riprap are deposited on Mount Douglas beach.

By now there are 10,000 vehicles a day taking the route through Mount Douglas Park.

1989

In October, the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society is founded.

1991

There is serious opposition to the proposed relocation of Cordova Bay Road 30 metres further into the Park.

There is an agreement that the transmitter site building will be buried beneath the parking lot.

1992—FIRE!

Set accidentally by three young people, it took 24 hours to get under control and consumed 4 hectares of the park.

1992

Bikes are banned from the Park to reduce further deterioration of the trails

1992

On November 22nd, Saanich Council met on the summit of Mount Douglas and enacted the renewal of the Trust.

The terms were essentially the same as in the original Trust, except for the road, which was subdivided out, but given its own unique surveyed lines beyond which it may not go, and the transmitter site, which was given special designation but kept as part of the Park.

On the same day, the Charter was proclaimed and control of the Park passed over to the Municipality of Saanich.

- The DFO Community Advisor has suggested an eyed egg transplant this fall. This addresses another important component of the coho life cycle—the emergence of alevins from the gravel. The transplant will allow us to gauge the capability of the creek in this respect. If we are going to establish this stock we have to, at this time, keep this transplant going.
- We have a weather-dependent schedule for trapping coho fry in the Creek through the fall and winter and into next spring. This establishes presence or absence of the fish, and allows us to measure them and generally to have a good look at them.
- We are just starting a riparian assessment of the forest ecosystem from the Ash Road bridge south to Robinwood on both sides of the Creek. We want to gather basic information on soils, nutrients, drainage and vegetation in order to discover what is happening to the forest. We hope to find out why it is changing and what it is changing to. We need to develop some vegetation cover over the creek in that area. Easy enough to just plant trees, but we want to plant species that are in harmony with the forest in the Park—species that will actually grow in a landscape that is demonstrably changing.



Postscript to the First Flush

The Community Advisor for Salmonid Enhancement for Southern Vancouver Island and myself had a meeting the day after the first flush of the storm drain system. Although it was twilight, we went down to the Creek to look at the work we were planning. Unfortunately, we found a lot of dead fish. Of the fish we saw, 60 per cent were dead and 40 per cent were alive.

When I can get back to the Creek, and have a weekend without rain, I can set the minnow traps and get an idea of who is still around. I don't think the 60/40 ratio is an accurate representation of the coho population in the Creek. White bellies are easier to see than brown backs hunkered down for the night. Whatever the numbers are, there was a significant fish kill.

To be objective, the close association of the first flush and the dead fish is indicative of a connection, but not conclusive. The one good that came out of this was that the Community Advisor took some of the dead fish with him, to send off to a DFO laboratory to try to find out exactly what killed them. Since they had been dead for some little while, lab results may not be conclusive. He is going to supply us with some sample bottles. The first time we have a significant rain, I will nip down and grab some water samples. We have wanted to do tests for some time, but the cost is out of our range. We hope to discover the exact problem and do something about it.

Needless to say, the experience left us a little depressed—but what are our options? If we quit now, an unborn generation of coho will stay that way—unborn. And so we carry on.

Workparties

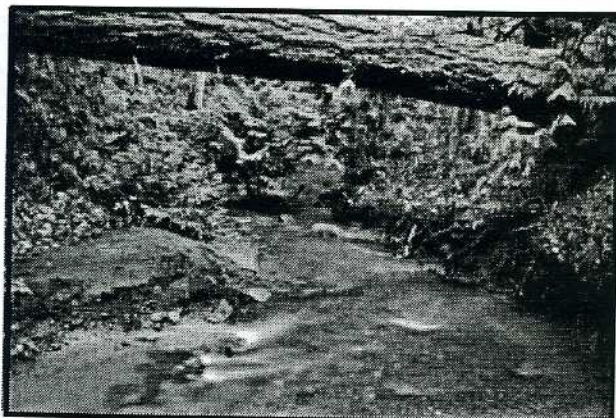
The invasion of English ivy round the edges of the Park, and also further within, has become a serious concern. So far our efforts to deal with this threat have been confined to two areas. One of these is fairly near the entrance to the Park from Cedar Hill Road, and just above the two residences at the head of the orchard.

On May 28 a party of students from Cedar Hill Junior High attacked the leading edge of the invasion at that point, mainly by cutting the ivy away from the trees. This work was continued in the same area by some of us on July 10th. Unfortunately, the number of volunteers that have been turning out for this work is not enough to cope with the problem.

Earlier in the year a party consisting of staff from the municipality, a party of Girl Guides with their parents, and a few from our Society cleared away some ivy that had begun to engulf a rare plant community adjoining Durling Place.

Elderhostel Activity

On July 20 and 21 we gave groups from the Elderhostel organization a conducted tour of the Creek. Considerable interest was shown in the work that we have been doing there.



Restoration of Natural Systems Program

The Restoration of Natural Systems program, offered through the University of Victoria, has been designed for people working in the field of environmental restoration. Its purpose is to provide practical background knowledge, training and skills in areas related to restoring natural systems. We collaborated with the coordinator for this program when we contracted Moraia Grau to develop a restoration plan for the old quarry.

For information, contact Peggy Faulds (250) 721-8463, E-mail her at pfaulds@uvcs.uvic.ca or see the program's Web site at www.uvcs.uvic.ca/restor

Mount Douglas Park and Regional Green/Blue Spaces

Regional green/blue spaces are defined as:

Natural and semi-natural areas, both land and water, that are of ecological, scenic, renewable resource, outdoor recreation and/or greenway value. These areas are considered to have high ecological and/or social value as green/blue spaces. Green/blue space areas could include developed, partly developed or undeveloped public and private spaces.

In 1995 CRD Parks and the Provincial Capital Commission instituted the Regional Green/Blue Space Strategy to identify why we should protect these spaces, which significant areas should be protected and maintained, and how protection and maintenance can be achieved.

Mount Douglas, a significant green space on its own, has also an important place in the Green/Blue Spaces concept, linking, as it does, the waters of the Strait to that part of the Galloping Goose Trail that passes Blenkinsop Lake via the Lochside extension.

Last year's grant from the PCC upgraded the Mercer Trail where it meets Blenkinsop Road, and strengthened Mount Douglas's link in the Green/Blue Spaces chain.

If you're interested in the Green/Blue Spaces concept and want to get involved, contact: Dave Morris of the Provincial Capital Commission at 953-8806 or by fax at 386-1303; or by email at davem83@hotmail.com or get in touch with Jeff Ward of the Capital Regional District Parks at 478-3344 or by fax at 478-5416 or by email at jward@crd.bc.ca



MEMBERS, TAKE NOTE!

Please check the address labels on the front of the newsletter to make sure that the data is correct. In particular, check to see that we have the right year for your membership. We had a major failure when all the data on our hard drive was wiped out; the new data base has been prepared from the backup discs and the receipts issued since last March.

If you find any errors please call 658-5873 and we will put it right.

Board of Directors 1998/99

President	Kenneth Rankin	4285 Cedar Hill Road	V8N 3C7	477-8007
Vice 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	V8Z6G6	479-4281
Acquisitions	Claude Maurice	2200 Lorne Terrace	V8S 2H8	598-7407
Streams	Robert Bridgeman	1481 Elnido Road	V8N 4Z7	477-7464
At-Large	Hal Gibbard	1439 Wende Road	V8P 3T7	477-2986
Historian	Pam Lewis	4626 Cordova Bay Road	V8X 3V7	658-5039

Membership

The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society

\$5.00/person

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal code: _____

Please fill in this form and mail it to:

Graham Shorthill
4623 Cordova Bay Road
Victoria, BC V8X 3V6

Anniversary Issue