

# FRIENDS OF MOUNT DOUGLAS PARK



## *Mount Douglas Park Charter*

*The lands known as Mount Douglas Park are hereby reserved in perpetuity for 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 parkland present and future, so that the whole will continue as a wilderness preserve for generations to come.*

*Proclaimed this 22<sup>nd</sup>. day of November 1992 by the council of the Corporation of the District of Saanich on behalf of the citizens of Saanich*



**Newsletter July 2004**

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It's appropriate to remind ourselves (and others) of the Mount Douglas Park Charter from time to time, but even more appropriate at this time because on May 19th the Friends of Mount Douglas Park awarded a

### **Lifetime Society Membership**

to:

*Pam Lewis*

Pam was a founding member of the Society—in real terms THE founding member of the society, because it was her concern and persistence over many years that finally led to the creation, in 1989, of an organization—the Friends—dedicated solely to the welfare and protection of Mount Douglas Park.

She has never abandoned that concern and persistence. She pressed for the reinstatement of the original charter. She served on the executive board of the Society for many years and, as the Society's historian, continues to this day as the invaluable (and invincible) watchdog of the true interests of the Park.

This summer, Hal Gibbard, a member of our executive, received individual recognition of his work to benefit the environment. The award reads:

#### **Hal Gibbard: Biodiversity Conservation**

The members of the Saanich Environment Advisory Committee would like to recognize your achievements in the protection of the biodiversity of Garry oak ecosystems . Your efforts are truly appreciated, and we wish you success as you continue to work for the environment in Saanich. Congratulations.

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And the Society itself was honoured by the Saanich Environmental Advisory Committee:

### **The Friends of Mount Douglas Park**

Environmental Achievement  
Volunteer Organization

The members of the Saanich Environmental Advisory Committee would like to recognize your achievements in stream restoration, invasive species, removal, stormwater management, research and public education in the watershed.

Your efforts are truly appreciated and we wish you success as you continue to work for the environment in Saanich. Congratulations.

### **Shoreline protection and the beach**

This project has been delayed to some extent because the work on the pump station is taking longer than expected, but the next step in the approval process has been completed.

There was a well-attended Open House at Lochside School in June where two major concerns were raised by the public. Firstly, the possibility that the new structure would prevent sand from getting to the main beach in the heart of Cordova Bay and secondly, concerns over the amount of environmental damage done when the construction materials are brought in and while construction takes place.

The proposed structure has the ability to hold a certain maximum amount of sand and the question is, very simplistically, do you ship this sand in from a pit or do you allow nature to do the job for you? If the first method is used, then the cost of the project goes up but the surrounding beaches are unaffected. With the second method, the cost goes down but sand is removed from the overall system until the structure is filled, having an impact on the local beaches. It's reasonable to predict that a compromise between these extremes will be found before final approval for the project is given.

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The environmental damage problem is far more complex, and the marine biologists who are consultants to the project freely admit that it will be a major challenge to do a complete restoration. Again, there are two main pathways forward to complete the construction project—do the minimum restoration and allow nature to do most of the job over a long period of time, or include a significant fraction of the restoration as part of the overall project, leaving nature to take care of the details once the project is finished. In either case, maintenance work will be required for the foreseeable future.

What has emerged from the limited discussions amongst the members of the Executive is that we should go for the option that embeds as much restoration work as possible in the project as it unfolds. What do you think?

## The beach itself

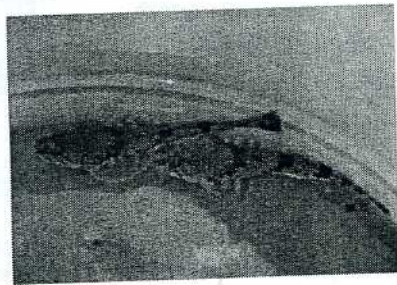
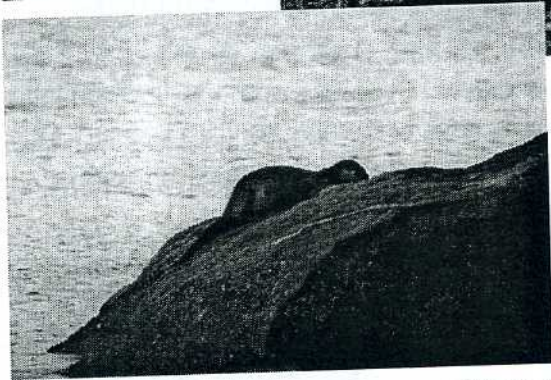
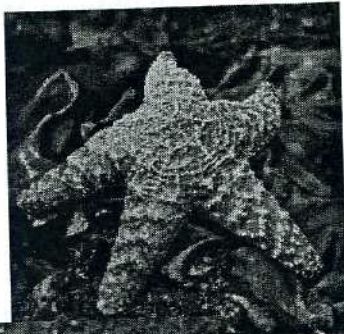
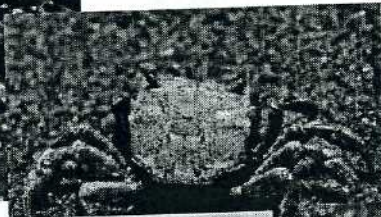
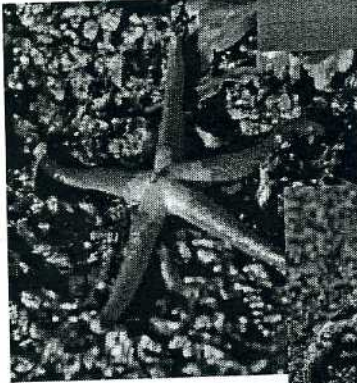
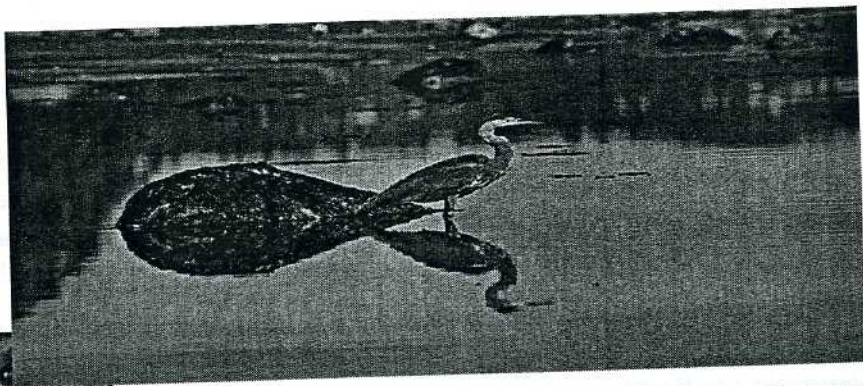
Michael Vaninsberge, our Youth Representative, has an extensive acquaintance with Mount Douglas Park, including, of course, the beach. There could be a very real danger in the coming months if the beach is considered as simply an inactive part of the slope restoration project. Here are Michael's comments and, on this page and the next, a broad selection of pictures of the beach life he and his mother, Laurie have found there.

"The Cordova Bay shoreline was once used by the Songhees and other neighboring tribes to collect bivalves, seaweed and sea cucumbers. Evidence of this still remains as an area of midden (a "garbage dump") containing various bivalve shells, and can easily be spotted on the left side of Douglas Creek. Now the shoreline is used mainly as an important recreational area, entertaining locals and tourists alike.

As well, however, Mount Douglas Beach is a fragile ecosystem containing a variety of unique habitats, and therefore a vast array of different species.

Almost eighty species of sponges, hydroids, anemones, jellyfish, worms, bryozans, crabs, shrimp, isopods, amphipods, barnacles, bivalves, snails, limpets, nudibranchs, chitons, sea stars, brittle stars, sea cucumbers, seaweed and sea grasses have been identified by elementary and high school students. Because of this diversity, these areas should be treated with respect and preserved as a public park for future generations."





## **Anyone for golf?**

The marine biologists working on the shoreline project have used the very low tides of the last few weeks to take a close look at the beach at the water's edge, and they have found numerous golf balls including one with the title "Tsawwassen Golf and Country Club". So the questions that leap to mind are: how did they get here and can we use them as markers for sediment flow in Cordova Bay?

However, before any great schemes are launched, we have to eliminate the possibility that they have come from local park users practicing their drives off the top of the cliff or bunker shots on the beach itself. If you have done this or know anyone that has please let us know.

The usual methods of tracing sediments and water flow involve adding fluorescent dyes or radioactive tracers at a particular site and monitoring the surrounding body of water to see where the colour or radioactivity goes. For Cordova Bay, the former would not work because the dilution would be too great, and the latter is totally unacceptable. But golf balls! they would give you a digital signal, are environmentally benign and you can recycle them. This could be a major spinoff from the beach project, but first we have to make sure they got there from the sea.

Can you help?

## **The pump station**

Approaching the park along Cordova Bay Road you have probably encountered the trucks coming and going from the site of the new pump station. The good news is that it is nearing completion, but the bad news is that the first of the new developments is under way to the east of the station.

In the early days it seemed as if we would have a series of water front houses backed by clusters of high density housing at the road edge. Fortunately, the consultation process worked and that idea was abandoned in favour of the regular RS 12 zoning that exists in most of Cordova Bay. We hope that all this activity will not deter you from using the new sidewalk to the park: one of the pleasures of this summer has been the sight of pedestrians with or without dogs, cyclists of all styles and motorists, all travelling through the park in comparative safety, which is in stark contrast to the fears and dangers of a year ago.

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## **Cordova Bay Village**

With the changes to the road from the Park to Blenkinsop and the changes to Lochside Drive, residents along the main part of Cordova Bay Road decided the time had come to look at the next phase of development through the village.

The basis is the streetscape plan that has already been used near Mattick's farm. There have been several meetings with the Mayor and Saanich staff, the mood has been quite upbeat, and there are already some tangible signs of success as several new crosswalks have been added to the road.

The next major step will be clearer by the fall: the municipality wants to take the approach of "What can we achieve in two years?" and, as the whole road cannot be done in that period, the overall project has to be broken up into phases.

The important point is that each phase must link to what has gone before to create a distinct, coherent ambiance. It will not be a carbon copy of what has happened close to the park but there should be a sense of continuity from the park to beyond Mattick's Farm when the project is complete. And that ambiance should emphasize that this is a region rich in natural and human history and not just another commuter route.

## **Fireplace in the picnic area**

One of the major changes this year has been the restructuring of the picnic area. Most of the work has gone very well, but one of the remaining items is the fireplace. Initially, the idea was to renovate the fireplace and the seating immediately in front of it. However, when the stonemasons came to look closely at the structure they found it was in far worse condition than they had suspected. The combination of the much higher repair costs, the heightened awareness of fire risks after last year and the increasing use of small, personal gas BBQ's led to the idea that the fireplace be demolished and the stone used for something else.

The rational arguments are compelling but there are many people who have used the fireplace over the years as the centrepiece of their summer evenings and no doubt view this change with sadness and regret. We asked about using the stone for a new structure in the park and mounting a plaque on it explaining where the stone had come from and the role the fireplace had played in the evolution of this part of the park.

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If you have any memories or stories about your times around this fireside, please let us know so we can record them in the newsletter and use them to form the wording for the plaque

## **The cell site**

You may have noticed that the cell phone site at the park entrance has received a coat of green paint! Was it irony or sarcasm that dictated the choice of colour?. Despite the attempted camouflage, talks about Bell Mobility moving to the summit are still underway and we hope the talks will be successfully completed by the end of the summer.

If not, we will have to think again. This not an isolated incident—parks across the country are ideal targets for cell phone companies because they are seen as sites offering the least public resistance.

## **New delivery**

With this issue we are trying a new method of delivery and we are not sure how the newsletter will survive the trip through the postal machines nor how easy it will be to read once it is opened. (Incidentally, the best way to open it is with a knife between the pages and cutting the label from the inside.)

So, we need some feedback.

Was your copy torn or crumpled in any way?

When you opened it, did the pages stick together with the residues from the label?

Did the larger label cover any information?

Any comments you have can be sent to Shorthill @shaw.ca or mailed to the address on the membership form. Thank you.

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## The Good Neighbourhoods project

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) has embarked on a new environmental education program: The *Good Neighbourhoods* Project. This builds on work already accomplished with HAT's *Good Neighbours* Project. By reconnecting with people who live near sensitive protected areas, such as Mount Douglas Park, and getting the elementary schools involved, we hope to bring about awareness of the Garry oak ecosystem and the species-at-risk associated with this ecosystem. The Propertius Duskywing butterfly, and the plants White meconella, Purple sanicle and Scaepod are all endangered, and found within Mount Douglas Park.

Programs are available to eleven schools in close proximity to six sensitive protected areas. This includes Lochside, Torquay and Gordon Head Elementary near Mount Douglas Park. Environmental educators Pauline and Jennifer have conducted in-class and outdoor programs to classes at Torquay and Gordon Head Elementary, Lampson Street, Rogers, Willows, Lakehill, Brentwood, and two Homeschoolers groups.

We have had great feedback from teachers, parents and students! We have worked with 15 classes so far and have more programs booked for June.

The students love learning about traditional uses of the Garry oak ecosystem. When they realize there are edible plants in the wild, they get really excited. After discovering Miner's lettuce on a trip through Mount Douglas Park, each of the students sampled a leaf.

By the end of one trip we had students chanting about getting rid of invasive English Ivy. The in-class program has taught students about the impacts of mountain biking, trail braiding, development and pesticide use, all of which are issues affecting the Mount Douglas Park area.

It is our hope that we will provide the tools to build a strong stewardship ethic in each class and that this message will be brought home and shared with the families of each student. Our goal is to encourage stewardship in the community as a whole.

For information, call

Pauline Brest van Kempen  
Education Coordinator

995-2428

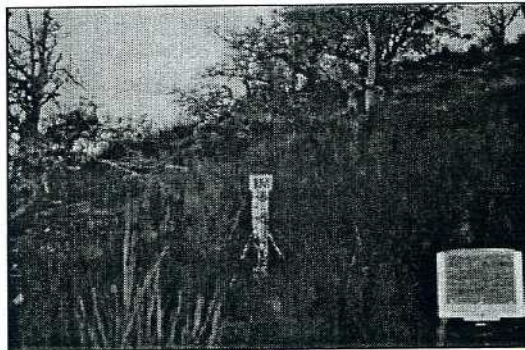
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## Garry Oak restoration project at Mount Doug

Seas of purple, pink, fuchsia, white and blue rippling in the breeze... the flutter of many patterned, delicate wings...musical notes and warbles drifting through the air from all directions. These are the visions of hope for many a future spring in Mount Douglas Park.

At one time, these visions were the majority of the landscape on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. Since European contact, over 95% of Garry oak ecosystems have been lost to development and invasive species. The Garry Oak Restoration Project (GORP) recognized the importance of the remnant areas of Garry oak ecosystems on Mount Douglas back at the start of the program in 1999. Two of GORP's ten ecological restoration and education sites are within Mount Douglas Park at the summit and on Little Mount Doug. In 2004 we are really at the start of the restoration process—but already these special sites are full of hope.

Mount Douglas Summit, though cleared in previous years, quickly reverts to a seemingly impenetrable wall of Scotch broom. Volunteer efforts from GORP and the Friends of Mount Doug have recently uncovered this magnificent rocky outcropping again from its broom cover, and will work hard to keep it this way. Once the broom is at a manageable level, other restoration efforts such as leaf mulching and appropriate planting can take place to keep



the broom out and attempt to restore a natural, functioning ecosystem.

The Summit restoration site is a good example of a GORP site chosen, in part, because it is highly visible and offers excellent opportunities for education. The transformation of the summit, while important on an ecological level, may also be important in the effort to encourage stewardship of these endangered ecosystems.



Little Mount Doug, to the west of the summit, has similar issues of broom and other invasive species that crowd out the original native species. The broom has also been cleared from this site, but will be an on-going effort to keep it clear. Volunteers now search out native species that are recovering so that we can hope to make the best, informed restoration decisions.

The boundaries of the Little Mount Doug GORP site have recently been expanded to include protection for a red-listed Purple sanicle that will be mapped and managed in the near future. As we protect this rare species from the expanding blackberry around it, we will also have to replace the blackberry in order to protect the sanicle from things like mountain bikes.

There is much to be learned about sites like this and how to go about protecting and restoring what once was. One of the most important aspects of this work is to create partnerships and increase communication and education. The Garry Oak Restoration Project has been very lucky to have Laurie and Michael VanInsberghe as site stewards for both these sites and Hal Gibbard on the GORP steering committee. Working with the Friends of Mount Doug, volunteers and the community, we hope to be able to make a difference here and restore the hope for a beautiful, diverse native landscape.

For more information on the Garry Oak Restoration Project, visit the web at HYPERLINK "<http://www.gorpsaanich.com>" [www.gorpsaanich.com](http://www.gorpsaanich.com)

## Scratching the surface

As mountains go, Mount Douglas is modest, just 225 metres high. But anyone who walks, scrambles, or drives to the top of Mount Doug is rewarded with a grand 360-degree view. More accurately, geologists call it a *monadnock*, a conspicuous rocky hill rising above the level of the surrounding terrain. From Mount Doug's summit, we can see other, similar prominent 'humps' scattered about—Observatory Hill, Mount Tolmie, Mount Newton, Mount Finlayson and Bear Hill. At this spot, guided by a map of the region engraved upon a bronze plaque (for the history of this plaque, contact Henry Niezen, 477-9415), your eye can wander over the contours stretched out on all sides. To choose just a few landmarks: There's Mount Tolmie to the south; the Metchosin gravel pit to the SW (...the buried remains of musk ox, bison, mammoth, and mastodon have been found in the gravels of the Saanich Peninsula, dating back 17,000 to 20,000 years); and beyond San Juan Island to the east, the dormant volcano cone of Mount

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Baker (rising 3285 metres), which is less than half a million years old and last erupted around 1870; to the NE, James Island, lying parallel to a glacial flow of long ago, its particular shape known as a drumlin, its blunt upstream slope contrasting with the gentler slope downstream as the ice moved south; and, again, below to the west, Blenkinsop Lake, and, further, Elk Lake to the north west. A landscape carved by ice and shaped by volcanoes.

The hard rock of the Mount Doug monadnock that has resisted erosion over the millenia is called *Colquitz Gneiss*: we can see it in outcrops in rock gardens, parks and road cuts all over Victoria, appearing as bands of light and dark layers with white veins of quartz running through it. Mount Doug, along with the rest of Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlottes and parts of SE Alaska and SW Yukon, is the product of collisions that occurred about 100M years ago, collisions between the ancient western edge of North America and exotic pieces of subterranean crust which were then located south of the equator. (A fact to ponder: Mount Doug as part of the North American continent is moving west under a pressure generated in the Atlantic Ocean, floating over the denser, heavier crust of the sea floor off the west coast of Vancouver Island. This is a process that has been continuous for hundreds of millions of years.)

So, on Mount Doug, you're looking at land which developed under thousands of metres of rock long since stripped away. Under the heat and pressure of their great depth, the rocks changed, or metamorphosed, into new chemical compositions and crystal textures resulting in Colquitz Gneiss. The gneiss of Mount Doug is not always evident as it is largely covered by dark lichens. For a clearer view, visit Cattle Point where the layers of rock have been tilted vertically. However, the bare rock outcrop on the north side of the parking lot, just below the trail leading to the top of the Mount Doug, tells an interesting story. Here the weathered rock has been polished smooth by glaciers, with prominent scratches and grooves showing two directions in which the ice once flowed. Two different glaciers? Or two different flows within one ice sheet?

What is known is that 15,000 years ago, after 14,000 years of glaciation and with the climate getting warmer, Victoria was under a kilometre of ice. This enormous weight of ice would have depressed the land mass below it by at least 150 metres and by as much as 300. The glacial ice at that time, like that before it, flowed south, carrying immense loads of rocks that grooved, furrowed, polished and scratched the bedrock at its base. It also bulldozed and reshaped earlier glacial deposits; note the long, gently-sloping forested area that trails out to the south of Mount Doug. This is called a *crag and tail* type of feature. So abrasive ice would have plucked rocks as it moved, deposited some

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as it melted. A 'wandering' rock, known as an *erratic*, a large boulder carried south by a glacier thousands of years ago and then left behind when the ice melted, sits on Mount Doug beach at the bottom of the concrete steps close to the creek. And another fine example, 4 metres diameter, can be seen resting on Colquitz Gneiss in Gonzales Bay just below the Observatory.

In contrast to the rocky peak, the soil at the lower parts of the park is often soft and muddy but, as you go higher, it becomes gravelly or sandy, and, finally toward the top, you are walking on hard rock. The whole Victoria area was once under water, shortly after the last ice age, 15,000 or so years ago. Since then the land has rebounded from the weight of ice so that we are now high and dry. Back then, the lower area of Mount Doug was in water deep enough that very fine clay was deposited, forming sediments: higher up, sand and gravel formed the shoreline: and the top rocky part of Mount Doug was out of water, exposed to the wind and rain, any sediments long since washed away.

In the lower lying areas of Mount Doug and the Saanich Peninsula, deep depressions were ground out in the bedrock by the ice, these then being packed with a dense, unsorted mixture of sand, gravel, silt and clay, deposited beneath the base of a moving glacier. This mixture is glacial *till*, remaining to this day, the fertile farmland soil of the Saanich Peninsula.

And the sand on the beach? This is composed largely of quartz and feldspar, hard and resistant materials derived from the weathering of the mountain Colquitz Gneiss, continuously delivered to the beach by Mount Doug's streams and creeks, and from erosion of the cliffs and bluffs along the beach.

Over the last 150 years, the forests of Gordon Head and beyond have given way to urban development and farmland. Only the forests of Mount Douglas Park retain a semblance of the past. Here we can still hike among the Douglas Fir and Oregon Grape, Grand Fir and Alder, Cottonwood and Pacific Crabapple—and discuss how best to remove those dratted invasives, English Ivy and Scotch Broom. And all around, from sea water's edge to Mount Doug's lookout, the rocks of ages past continue to shape us and the animals and plants that live in and beside the Park in this small slice of time.

*Karen Drysdale et al.: A children's guide to earth sciences, UVic.*

*Bob Bridgeman: An unpublished paper on Environmental Restoration, UVic, 2001.*

*Jim West and David Stirling: The Naturalist's Guide to the Victoria Region, 1986.*

*C J Horath and H W Nasmith: The Geology of Southern Vancouver Island: A Field Guide, 1995.*

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## The riparian project

As we have mentioned many times, we have been trying different strategies in order to enhance and increase the amount of salmonid habitat in Douglas Creek. The recent project that we shared with the geomorphology students from the University of Victoria through the Vancouver Island Public Research Group is a good example. This group measured important physical characteristics of the Creek channel and the discharge rate before revegetating the Creek banks with red osier dogwood cuttings. Future studies taken from the same benchmarks may be able to shed some light on the interaction between hydrology, geology and vegetation.

We think that revegetating the stream banks to improve habitat is one of the most useful actions we can undertake, as volunteers, working for the Society. A dense network of roots and branches knits the soils of the creek bank together and forces elevated flows out onto the adjacent flat areas, which then function as flood plains, reducing erosive power and absorbing energy. Stems also cause soil deposition so that creek banks are enhanced rather than degraded and water quality is improved by the deposition of sediment.

The creek banks above Ash road are difficult sites to plant, as previous tree and shrub plantings have shown first-hand. In the areas with mature trees the creek banks are dark. Light areas are extremely dry in the summer months—ground as hard as stone. What is watered in the summer months by association with the flow of moisture in the Creek is swept away in the winter floods. Even hardy native plant species have fairly narrow ranges of existence when moisture, light and nutrition are considered.

Previous plantings have not produced the results that we worked for, so we have tried to adapt and to learn from what we've done in the past.

For our latest planting project, we have hired two people—Ian Bruce and Mary Steele from Peninsula Streams—to act as the core of the volunteer side of the riparian planting (planned around and including Significant Tree Day). Currently the Society is planning to fund these positions, and will welcome any assistance.

In my experience volunteers can be counted on for certain parts of these projects, but people who are prepared to come to work over the course of a week for free, no matter what, are not easy to find. They are out there—lots of them—but usually already over committed. When you get into a financial agreement with people then the relationship

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changes and we can all have expectations of each other – relationships with volunteers are different.

So we are now looking at funding bodies. When writing up the grant applications we need to lay out partnerships and in-kind project contributions. The 1100 trees and shrubs, grown by Rob Hagel and staff at the Pacific Forestry Centre will be a considerable contribution (around \$1500.00). We are also asking Saanich Parks for some assistance.

Our very tentative plan is:

- to ensure that we have knowledgeable supervisors to assess the sites, work out the species mix, and to supervise the actual planting
- to break the planting into about 5 days;

One day of planting will be on Significant Tree Day In Saanich with a segment of the community at large, in a spot with safe access, to plant out a complement of the vegetation grown at the Pacific Forestry Centre;

On the remaining four days we will utilize other groups of volunteers in more difficult-to-access areas (a great opportunity for our group to put 20 people in the field for a couple of hours—an easy go of it in a great place);

Each day's planting shouldn't take more than a couple of hours, but the plants will have to be picked up from the Pacific Forestry Centre, moved onto the site, and a system of flags corresponding to species set out where the planting will take place—thus, a couple of hours planting and a couple of hours prep and cleanup.

We are asking the Parks Department to provide approximately 40 hours staff time to assist with:

- plant pick up and gate opening;
- placement of the flags;
- supervision of the planters; and
- interaction with the volunteers.

Previous plantings have been well meaning but not nearly effective enough. Survivability of the plant-outs has been poor. That tells us that we need to increase the supervision and put more time into site selection, thus we need more people. Rob and his staff at the Pacific Forestry Centre have put a tremendous amount of work into growing trees and shrubs from seeds and cuttings taken from adjacent to the Creek. We all feel that every

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single one needs the maximum chance to grow. Question is: how do we make that happen? We think we have the outline of a good plan but with many important details yet to come. Your input is welcome.

## **The creek calendar**

21 March 2004: An interesting example of synchronicity. We had just finished painting the undercoat on the last of the 'fish' for the Stream of Dreams project (a project to increase public awareness of the connectedness of roofs and streets, roads and drains, lakes, streams and beaches). We went for a walk along the Creek; stopped to have a look at an experimental planting of some red elderberry; saw some coho fry dying in the shallows of a riffle. There was no smell and the water was crystal clear. The fry had been in nice shape – about 125 mm nose to fork length - not quite all silver.

23–26 March 2004: The Stream of Dreams program was delivered at Gordon Head Elementary.

27 March 2004: We joined the geomorphology students from the university of Victoria in an experimental planting of red osier dogwood along a creek bank being built up by deposition. We experimented with a range of creek bank elevations. None of it is doing that well —about 50 percent survival at this date (July 10, 2004). They are in tough conditions. If they survive the summer they may become established in years to come.

04 April 2004: We picked up the fry traps that we set on the previous day. Two coho fry were picked up—nice looking fry at 130mm nose to fork. Newly emergent fry were seen just leaving the 'egg condos'.

18 April 2004: Many (34 in one pool) newly emergent coho fry seen in the Creek.

22 May 2004: We joined members of the community in transplanting 40,000 chum salmon fry into the Creek. The fish were delivered to us courtesy of the Howard English Hatchery and the Goldstream Salmon Enhancement Volunteers.

20 June 2004: We picked up the fry traps that we set on the 19th. We captured one chum fry—healthy looking at 65 mm nose to fork. This fry was representative of the many that we saw outside of the traps.

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## The chum fry transplant

We were having a series of heavy showers early on the morning of May 22. About 5:00 a.m. the water was flowing over the weir and there was a thick layer of soap bubbles on the downstream side of the weir: the Creek was covered in bubbles all the way down to Ash Road. The water was very turbid—it was touch and go whether we could release the fry. However, the soap washed on through and the rain eased off to the extent that we were able to transplant the fry later in the day.

We put half minnow traps into the siphons on the upstream side of the weir to act as a barrier to fish but not to water. The idea was to hold the fry for 24 hours to imprint Douglas Creek as the natal stream and then release them to make their way downstream. We had a few problems. The ends of the traps have a small hole in them and fry were being washed through the hole and downstream. We underestimated the force of the discharge through the siphons. Consequently about 500 fry were swept into the barrier and, unable to escape, perished.

The many volunteers transferred the fry in buckets from the tank to the pool above the weir. We had a good turnout, with lots of kids who all got some hands-on participation by carrying buckets and releasing fry. Notables from the Parks and Planning Departments were seen releasing fish and enjoying themselves with their families.

By the following day there were fry all down the Creek and at the beach. The fry that were swimming in the water running across the beach were being picked off by a long line of crows—that is the natural side of things. Fry that came across the beach at higher tides in the evening would have had greater chance of survival. Hard to say how many of the 40,000 made it into the ocean. There weren't any fish kills in the Creek and the fry were not in any rush to leave. There were, and still are, schools of 40 and 50 in pools up and down the length of the Creek.

The usual behaviour of chum is to leave their natal stream after hatching. Part of that behaviour has to do with climate—at that time of year there is not much in the Creek to feed them. Our fry were held back and fed so that they were introduced to the Creek at a larger size and at a later date. For salmonids in the ocean, larger size often translates into better chance of survival. There were numerous invertebrates in the Creek when the fry were put in and there still are now. The availability of food may help to keep them in the Creek longer and thus improve survivability. We could have chum back this fall

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## The beach

Your directors are ably attending to the beach and the various proposals for the slope stabilization project. Those of you who had the opportunity to enjoy the beach on the latest zero tides will appreciate the wild beach that we have on our doorsteps. It is unfortunately being seriously impacted by the pollution and litter of civilization as we know it. But even with those troubles, we still have a marvellous resource that is likely resilient enough to repair itself after the pollution comes to an end.

It is extremely important that we still have a wild beach after the slope restoration project is called off or completed. We will be very interested in how the engineered works effect the Creek as it crosses the beach. As it stands now the Creek is tidal for, say, 25 metres up the channel. There aren't any problems with aquatic organisms either going into or out of the Creek. If the beach changes to the extent that there can be no fish passage we will have yet another struggle on our hands—another wolf at the door.

## Stream of Dreams

Stream of Dreams was a dream project. Make no mistake, there was some good old-fashioned roll-up-the-sleeves work required in order for it to be launched. The results were worth the hard work. The Society's press release follows. It is an accurate and concise narrative of how the project worked, but omits the many interesting moments in its genesis.

"Connecting stream and watershed education with public art? Believe it. The Stream of Dreams is a public information program that does just that. In the delivery of the program Joan Carne and Louise Towell, Burnaby residents and healthy stream advocates, show that we can have our neighbourhoods very nearly as they are now and still have a healthy Creek. They delivered this program—with the assistance of volunteers from the school PAC, schoolteachers, and two trainees—to Gordon Head Elementary students, teachers, parents and friends on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of March this spring.

"Gordon Head Elementary School, The Friends of Mount Douglas Park, the Goldstream Salmon Enhancement Society encouraged and assisted the presentation, and Saanich Parks and Saanich Environmental Planning each donated \$1500 to make the project go.

"The Program is in two parts. First comes an interactive discussion about urban watersheds and the connection between roofs, roads, drains and aquatic ecosystems —

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specifically Douglas Creek, in this case. A map of the Gordon Head/Douglas Creek watershed was displayed for local reference, and experiences with other streams formed part of the narrative as well.

"The second part focused on an artistic interpretation of how people think about salmon. Each participant was supplied with a wooden salmon, brushes and paints, to paint the dream salmon in their own Stream of Dreams. Their salmon—about 500 of them, one for each student, teacher and guest who took part—have been installed on the section of the School's chain link fence that faces Kenmore Street.

"The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society considers the Gordon Head Elementary presentation as a pilot project to encourage participants—the community—to realize that together we can bring salmon back into the neighbourhood as a feature of the Park, as an indicator of the health of the neighbourhood, and to restore some of the cultural and physical heritage of this part of British Columbia.

"We hope that other schools in the area will take up the project for delivery in their schools. This is an impressive program, with a strong visual impact. Stop by Gordon Head Elementary and have a look for yourself or view the Stream of Dreams website at <http://www.streamofdreams.net/>.

"Clear indicators of success of the program included:

- the delivery of the project—on time and under budget
  - the response of the school—extremely positive.
  - the students: participation—enthusiastic.
  - the volunteers—PAC and parents worked on Friday for about six hours installing the fish on the fence and stayed enthusiastic until the last fish swam in the mural.
  - the project continuity—two people trained to carry on the work in Victoria.
  - media interest —good media coverage on Friday night on the New VI television station courtesy of Jen Paul, Briony Penn and crew. The Saanich news also ran a piece with a photo.
  - To be determined— will other schools take up the program? two schools have shown interest.
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How Gordon Head Elementary received the Stream of Dreams Project may best be told by Charlotte Holton who is a teacher at the school and an environmental steward, and who was closely involved with the delivery of the program. She says, "I can't stop checking out our fish! Today I put up a big display of the project on the main bulletin board. I got some great photos, which I displayed, as well as student writing about the day. I'm still SO PUMPED with the excitement of the Stream of Dreams Project. This is absolute proof that when all the players come together, something like this is very doable! We did it! The kids will be such good ambassadors and good 'voices' for the message we want to continue to spread. This is definitely a testimonial to getting kids involved from the ground up, getting them invested, so that they will take ownership."

From Joan Carne and Louise Towell we pass on this letter:

Hello to all of you who have given tremendous energy and commitment to bring the Stream of Dreams program to your community.

"We are thrilled to share the news and the recognition for three recent awards that have been given to the Stream of Dreams Murals Society. First the BC Recreation and Parks Association Award for Environmental Leadership, then the 2004 Gold Canadian Environmental Award for Environmental Learning (check the website <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/cea2004/en/winners2004.asp>) and on June 8th, the National River Conservation Award of Merit from the Canadian Heritage Rivers System at Riverconference2004 (<http://www.riverconference2004.ca/>) in Guelph, Ontario. WOW!!!

We know that the success of the program absolutely relies upon the superb commitment and organizational skills that each of you lend to your school or community's mural and upon the hundreds of volunteers who help to create and attach the wooden fish.

We hope that these awards will help us to move the project into other communities, maybe other provinces or even other countries in time. It will take great care to make certain that the message is not lost as the concept of fish on fences spreads out.

Thank you all for your dedication and please know that we welcome your thoughts, suggestions or continued involvement with the society in any way that might interest you.

Thank you all and congratulations!

Joan and Louise"

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## Ivy pull

Volunteer members of Citizens Combatting Ivy Growth and Spread continue to pull ivy in the Park on the first Sunday morning of every month.

The calendar to the end of the year, is August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5).

We have been confining our efforts so far to relatively isolated patches along trails to prevent them from expanding. This is also better for morale, since it gives us a sense of completing one task before going on to another.

So far the patches attacked have been on the Whittaker Trail between the Cedar Hill firegate and Churchill Drive and more recently on the trail next to the old orchard (now a housing development).

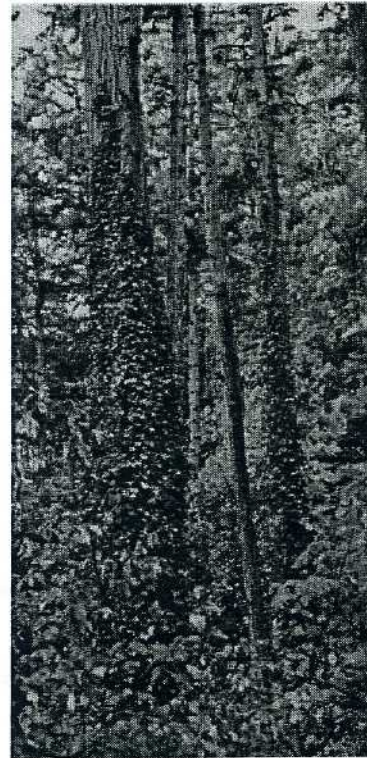
More volunteers would be welcome. Consider helping out.

It takes just one-and-a-half hours from 10:00-11:30 am of your time, one Sunday each month.

We meet at 10:30 near the washroom in the parking lot and drive/walk to the chosen site

We pull ivy rain or shine—dress for it.

Also bring gloves, secateurs, and clippers or saws if you have them.



## Board of Directors 2001/2002 <sup>04</sup>

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## Membership

Please check your address label (above); if it reads '03 or earlier, your renewal time has come. We hope you will continue to support the work of the Society for another year by sending \$5 for each one-year membership to the address below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Individual membership fee is \$5.00 per year

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