



Acrylic on canvas, Kristi Bridgemen Fire Art and Illustrations (250) 477-7464

'Cel'annen (way of life):  
clambake on Mount Douglas Beach 1900

'05 Rankin:  
Mr./Mrs. K.W.  
4285 Cedar Hill Rd.,  
Victoria, V8N 3C7 B.C.

**March 2006**

**FRIENDS OF MOUNT DOUGLAS PARK**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday April 18 2006  
7:30 p.m.

McMorran's Seaview Room  
5109 Cordova Bay Road

Reports from Committees  
Election of Officers

### **Speakers**

Angela Evans, Saanich Environmental Planner  
"Roses and Rainwater: Watershed stewardship lessons from Portland"

Mike Ippen, Manager, Public Works, Municipality of Saanich  
"Waterways- Maintenance Issues from a Public Works Perspective"

### **Election of Officers**

*The chairman of the nominating committee is Kay Porter:  
her phone number is 658-5792.*

*If you should wish to propose yourself or someone else as a candidate for the  
Executive Board, please call her or make your proposal at the  
appropriate point during the meeting.*

**Take time to renew your Friends' membership for 2006/2007,  
either at the Annual General Meeting or by using the form  
on the back of this newsletter.**

**WE COUNT ON YOU.**



## President's Annual Report 2005 - 06

Over the year our involvement in two long-term projects continued. One of these has been the control of stormwater as a necessary step towards the further improvement of Douglas Creek as a fish-bearing stream. To this end, as mentioned in our October newsletter, we commissioned a report from the firm Murdoch Landscape and Design. That has now been completed and Council has approved its recommendations. Accordingly the challenge in the months ahead, both for us and for the municipality's technical staff, is to see that these recommendations are implemented. The other long-term project has been the protection of the shoreline and the shore's ecology. At the last AGM Peter Sparanese from Saanich Engineering and John Readshaw, the main outside consultant, outlined a plan that may offer what we want, and steps towards testing its practicality are now in train.

We have been holding periodic meetings with municipality officials on a number of more limited issues. One of these arose out of a release of oil into the sewer system and from there into the Creek. We have had a useful interchange views over how the incidence of similar episodes might be minimised. Consultation on another issue led to the removal of Bell Mobility's cell unit on the pole near the entrance to the main parking lot and its transference to the radio tower on the mountain top. With the Parks Department we have been discussing such matters as

- liability insurance for volunteers who engage in such projects as tree planting, fish release, and invasive species eradication;
- methods of disposing of invasive species (whether to cart out once pulled or to let lie to rot);
- trail guidance (maps and signage);
- the cost of burying power lines that serve the washrooms;
- the removal of redundant phone lines on Ash Road; and
- appropriate locations for benches.

For more detailed reports on our various activities from other members of the executive, read on.

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## Floating a Trial Balloon

It's been a few years now since we launched the idea of closing Churchill Drive until noon on Sunday mornings. It has been a great success with the users of the Park, and neither the motoring public nor the tourist industry have made any negative comments. It is also clear that an increasing number of people have incorporated the walk to the summit along Churchill Drive as part of their regular exercise program. In fact, many people make the trip several times a week and we want to encourage even more people to follow their example.

One of the drawbacks at the moment is that the exhaust gases from the cars cause some distress to the walkers; any time you do vigorous exercise your nose, throat and lungs become more sensitive to the air quality drawn through them and you can sense the irritating presence of carbon monoxide at much lower concentrations than usual.

It is important to note that the majority of these walkers are middle-aged and older; the dominant colours are shades of gray. They are not seeking an elite, pristine wilderness experience nor do they plan to scramble over rock faces to reach the summit, but they do want to walk in safety with their friends and their dogs.

Based on the comments we have had, it seems the time has come to extend the period of car-free walking along Churchill Drive. The problem is how to do it. The original thought was to designate another day (Monday) and treat it in the same way as Sunday. However, this could cause some confusion, and the last thing we want is to have a stream of irate motorists with lots of out-of-town passengers arriving at the foot of Churchill Drive only to find the gate closed because they had mistaken the day and time. With this in mind, we want to pursue the idea of opening the gate at the same time each day—say 11:00 a.m. except Sunday, so that the walkers will have the cool, clean air of the morning for their exercise and the motorists and visitors will have the views and sunsets of the afternoon and evening.

This idea of scheduling activities is the bedrock upon which our recreational centres operate, and the general population has no trouble adjusting to the idea that family swims will be at one time, diving at another and weight training at yet another. The number of people using the park on a regular basis has shot up in recent years, and some form of rudimentary scheduling is sometimes necessary so that one form of recreation does not interfere with and devalue another.

Let us know what you think, as we would like to make this a subject of discussion at the Annual General Meeting this year.

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## Cleaning Up Oil Spills

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we suffered a serious setback in the fall when oil flowed into the Creek for three days, just in time to greet the largest number of spawning salmon in living memory. It was a stark reminder of the interplay between the watershed and the water quality in the Creek. In this case, the oil came from the Fire Station near UVic, the furthest point from the outfall at Robinwood, and thus provided a major challenge to the people from the Public Works Department who were trying to find the source of the spill.

Opening manhole covers and trying to gauge the level of contamination and then deciding which branch of the network to follow was a slow and difficult process: they arrived at the right conclusion at about the same time as the Fire Department realized it was losing oil at a phenomenal rate. At the post-mortem, a number of ideas were launched to deal with future spills: firstly it was recognized that the inadequate weir across the Creek is the last line of defence and that improvement can be made here to contain and decontaminate the water before it passes over the spawning grounds. Secondly, a new method of detection is needed to speed up the process of locating the source of pollution. And thirdly, increasing the detention time in the storm water system would lead to less pollution in the water emerging from the pipe at Robinwood.

By coincidence, Murdoch Landscaping Planning and Design had just completed a major project for us as part of the grant we received from the Public Conservation Assistance Fund. The report, which contains a number of significant recommendations about storm water detention and cleanup, was approved by Saanich's Environmental Advisory Committee who sent it to Council with a recommendation for approve. Council did approve the motion, and it was publicly endorsed by the Engineering Department and incorporated into the battery of techniques they are assembling to combat these recurring problems.

We will have a display of these techniques at the A.G.M.

To its credit, once the size of the spill was determined, the Engineering Department called in Scott Murdoch to see what could be done and we understand they plan to do some work together along Laval by Mount Douglas School.

However, the whole incident highlights the fact that in this game it is always a case of three steps forward and two back; we never have the sense of smooth steady, incremental gains over time, and that can be a little frustrating for everyone involved.

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How Bob Bridgeman felt as he stood on the bank with about seventy volunteers ready to restore the riparian zone with native plants, and with more than forty healthy good-sized salmon ready to spawn in the stream at what should have been the culmination of more than ten years work, and then to smell and later see the oil as it slithered into sight must have been heart-breaking: you realize why some people tear their hair out at such moments.

## Shoreline Protection

It's now official: the Engineering Department is asking for \$300,000 in the next budget to develop and fine-tune the model for the shoreline. So, after a year's delay, the next stage is about to begin. In the interval, the cast of characters has changed almost completely: we have a new Council, a new Director of Engineering and new people in key posts, so we must ensure that what is tested matches what was agreed upon by the Advisory Committee and that what is finally built satisfies both the engineering and biological demands that were identified in the consultation process. Of necessity, the latter are long term and more complex, involving the remediation of the beach, encouraging the plant and aquatic life to thrive within the rocks and crevices installed for the purpose.

Those of you who saw the presentation last year will recall that the key parameters are the shape and attitude of fingers pointing into the sea, the material used to construct them and the seeding of the structure once it is complete. We were impressed by the work done by the biological consultants, Archipelago, and want to see their vision embedded in the model and in the final structure.

Many have asked "When will construction begin?" The best estimate is that the preliminary work will take place this fall, with the main project completed in 2007. So there is a distinct possibility that within two years we will have a larger beach for use by the general public, coupled with a new shoreline capable of producing a far greater diversity of plant and aquatic life than we have seen in more than a generation along this shore. This prospect has been achieved by linking the engineering needs to the biological ones so they sustain each other. All the previous proposals we have seen envisioned achieving the engineering needs at the expense of the biological ones.

The remaining task is to ensure that what has been agreed upon is finally built. Because of the changes in personnel there is possibility of error, and to guard against this we

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want to make sure that the terms of reference attached to the funding are comprehensive and explicit. In this way we hope to bring the hard work of many people and organizations to a positive and fruitful conclusion.

## **The Motel and the Park**

For those of you with long memories, this is a trip down memory lane. The present motel came into existence when the Park was still under the nominal control of the City of Victoria. The original motel, which had occupied part of the site for decades, was too small to be economical and the use of the land for commercial operations was, in the words of the planner, a non-conforming use; in plain English, it was illegal.

To obtain the parking space required for an enlarged motel, the new owners were allowed to encroach into the Park by the side of the small stream that flows along the boundary. The zoning for the site was changed to "commercial" and the motel has now flourished for about twenty years. During this period, the driveway has been used as an access point for Parks and Fire Department vehicles, as well as by general park users coming to the Park along Cordova Bay Road.

Overall, it has been a reasonable compromise between park values and commercial interests. But now the motel owners want to change the status of some of their units to entice people to stay for longer periods, and Saanich Planning Department is using the opportunity to remove the anomalies that were allowed originally. In this discussion, the Parks Department has led the charge to take back the land into the Park and to retain access for their vehicles. We support them in this and have drawn attention to the need to clean up the area behind the motel. The Whittaker trail wanders behind the motel and along the north and western boundary.

The current plan is to clean up the area along the boundary, including some planting to show the demarcation between public and private land. Then, the Whittaker trail at this point will need rejuvenating because it is rutted and muddy in winter. Once that has been done we can think of a design for the viewpoint. A long time ago Pam Lewis pointed out that the tongue of parkland just to the west of the motel would make an excellent viewing point over to the Gulf Islands. There is now a reasonable chance of achieving this goal.

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## **Saanich's Centenary**

The Municipality launched its centenary celebrations on March 1 and the unexpected sight of so many past Mayors brought back a host of associations between them and the Park.

- Ed Lum and Mel Couvelier: with the land acquisition behind the motel and the construction of the new motel;
- Howard Sturrock: with the start of the transfer of the Park to Saanich;
- Murray Coell: with the completion of the transfer and the proclamation of the Charter;
- John Mika: with a steady voice defending the interests of the Park;
- Frank Leonard: with more land acquisition on the western boundary and the new initiative for the beach.

Much has happened in the last twenty years and there is every chance it will continue for the next twenty, so stay tuned and be vigilant!

### **Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary**

**presents its 11th annual**

**Gardening for Wildlife**

**A Native Plant Gardening Sale and Demonstration**

**Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, 2006**

For sale, over 100 species of native plants, seeds, books, bird feeders, nesting boxes.

Presentations and displays on choosing the right native plants for your yard, attracting and supporting wildlife, tips on removing lawns, Native Plant Garden tours...and much more.

\$3/day, \$5/weekend pass (includes admission to all workshops and presentations). Free to Friends of the Sanctuary

Plant list and presentation schedule available at our website:  
[www.swanlake.bc.ca](http://www.swanlake.bc.ca)



## Creek Calendar

September 3, 2005. We were in the Park taking pictures of the woody debris opportunities in the channel. There are several opportunities both to create coho instream habitat and to improve habitat access for spawning chum salmon.

September 17, 2005. We put four minnow traps into the usual spots.

September 18, 2005. Took a reading of the outside gauge at the hydrometric station: we were getting about 8 litres/second flow – which is the usual summer flow. We picked up the minnow traps with one coho fry captured. This fry came from the February 27, 2005 eyed-egg transplant. It was a 90 mm fry—nose to fork—and a representative of the many others (I am sure) that hide out in the various habitat units along the length of the Creek. It was taken in a 0.5 meter pool and released after measurement.

September 30, 2005. In the morning we walked the riparian zone of the Creek with Mary Steele from the Peninsula Stream Society. We selected the planting areas for the November 06, 2005 Significant Tree Day in Saanich riparian tree plant; chose the access points, discussed logistics, and laid out our various roles in volunteer management and planting coaching.

In the afternoon we met with Kristine Kelly and Dave Hill from Saanich Parks to discuss the woody debris work. We viewed the opportunities and also discussed the logistics for the plant delivery for the Significant Tree day event.

October 10, 2005. We were in the park collecting alder seeds (92 cones) for the 2006 November Significant Tree Day event—another planting in the riparian zone. We also picked some *Rosa spp.*—approximately 125 fruits of various sizes and ripeness.

October 22, 2005. We attended a bioengineering workshop put together by the Capital Regional District and the Bowker Creek group. David Polster—our local subject expert and bioengineering pioneer—presented the theory and examples of bioengineering techniques used in projects in British Columbia and the Yukon. David and associates have completed some marvellous projects. They have not only done the work but David is leading the way in demonstrating and proving the effectiveness of this important restoration tool.

October 23, 2005. Lehna Malmkvist and David Polster put about 30 of us through the paces of putting theory into practice. We were in Rithet's Bog removing some willow (a bog pest) in the morning and then to a portion of Bowker Creek behind the Eric Martin

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pavilion to install the plan. We continued a section that was finished by Saanich Roads and Drains. We finished the work in one day—it looked very good. The willow stems we worked with will sprout and form a tough, resilient barrier to erosion and create habitat for birds and other small creatures.

November 02, 2006. A blessed day: the chum came back. These were from the transplants of 2002 and 2001. We walked up the Creek and counted 43 males and females combined—not easy to distinguish when they are right out of the ocean—engaging in spawning behaviour. Some were heard under woody debris but were not counted as we could not see how many there were. These were big fish and their flapping as they moved upstream made a symphony of sound in our ears. They actually moved past two of three debris jams below Ash Road Bridge—we never saw any as far up as the bridge but subsequent reports say they were there. Forty three minimum may not sound like a big deal but chum were down in numbers in most of the streams on the east coast of Vancouver Island—Goldstream, for example, was way down from expectations—so on a relative scale our numbers were out of this world.

November 05, 2006. We were in the park putting the finishing touches to the November 6 planting. The script we dreamed was to have the volunteers planting riparian shrubs above Ash road while the chum flapped in the Creek at their feet. We started at the Creek mouth just to have a look at the 'fresh' chum that were coming in and we smelled OIL! There was oil was down the Creek and the chum were splashing around in it and spawning—a disaster!

We called the spill in, first to the Fire Hall (they respond to calls on the weekend) via a Society member's phone on Robinwood. We met the call-out chap from Roads and Drains and helped him string out an oil boom at the weir. It started to rain. Friends and neighbours walked by and took in the horror first hand. One old friend of the Park went home and brought back his neighbour, Karen Christie (the new Manager of Environmental Services for Saanich). She and I stood on the weir as the water from the rain overtopped the crest of the weir and poured downstream in a steady sheet of oil on top of those spawning chum. And then it got dark and rained harder.

November 06, 2006. At first light we were back at the weir—light oil mixed with water was still pouring through the siphons. Nobody else around. Returned home and called PEP and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. We had to go down to the main parking lot to greet the tree-planting volunteers, the municipal gardeners, our riparian specialists

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from the Peninsula Stream Society and their volunteers. We got the event started and then met a Fisheries Officer at the weir and reported the spill circumstances.

If you ever wanted to distil the paradoxes involved in the restoration of an urban stream and bring them into focus in a stark contrast, this was the day to do it: volunteers of all sorts and community partners planting native vegetation—home grown at the Pacific Forestry Centre (the best planting material obtainable)—while at their feet oil poured downstream onto the salmon we all worked so hard to bring back.

The happy part was that we completed the riparian planting in the small flood plains. It was hard for us to keep track of the people involved because we were tied up with the ongoing oil spill. The people that we engaged to organize (Saanich staff and the Peninsula Streams Society) performed flawlessly. We caught the tail end of the planting, planted a few shrubs, and talked to some of the volunteers.

The event was organized the same as the previous year. Rob Hagel at the Pacific Forestry Centre grew the vegetation from seeds that we picked adjacent to the Creek in the fall of 2004. As usual, the plants grown by Rob were exceptional—the best I have ever seen. Two gardeners from Saanich Parks picked up and delivered the vegetation. They also acted as planting coaches—encouraging kids, helping to pick appropriate sites, and demonstrating proper planting techniques. Our group of specialists from the Peninsula Stream Society and some of their volunteers also set up planting sites and mentored planters. The volunteers came from all walks of life: families, students and older folk. And let's not forget the amazing Dick Battles, who pretty much single-handed cleaned off the extensive ivy from two of the sites, and Andy Jeff's group who did another two.





Despite the spill the completed event had all the hallmarks of a successful event: the partnerships, the local action, the education and the fun. It was so great in fact that we are planning to do the same again in November 2006, so stay tuned! Restorationists and vegetation specialists from the Peninsula Streams Society and two gardeners from the Saanich Parks Department will be available to help find appropriate spots for the plants and to discuss the importance of vegetation in the restoration of urban streams.

November 13, 2005. We were regularly walking the Creek to count spawning chum. Overall we were seeing fewer live fish as time went on. Sometimes we would see a new adult enter the Creek. Around this time we saw eggs in one of the pools at the top end of the Creek. Nobody saw fish up that high, but then fish are not people and they have their own way of doing things. Hard to say if the oil was killing the adults or if they were dying from natural causes—chum are obvious predation targets because they are big and some of the water they spawn in is not, so there is some evidence that they spawn as soon as they come into fresh water and die shortly after—or are eaten.

November 27, 2006. We transplanted 150 chum carcasses into Douglas Creek. The carcasses were largess of the Goldstream Salmon Enhancement Society, the Esquimalt Anglers, and the Goldstream Hatchery. The Hatchery Manager, Peter McCully, made arrangements with Tom Rutherford from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to freeze the carcasses after an egg take at the hatchery, and hold them for us. Tom managed the necessary transplant permits; we organized the volunteers.

Community partners included: The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society; Saanich Parks; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; The Howard English Hatchery— Goldstream Salmon Enhancement Society; the Esquimalt Anglers; and friends of the Park.





We had an amazing turnout. Here are some of the names, but not all. Simone Kuklinski and 12 students from St Michaels: Asha Benedyczak, Surrey Lin, Jack Chan, Natasha Qureshi, Nadine Qureshi, Hugo Chan, Andya Jang, Min Ju Park, Sandra Oh, Winnie Poon, Vince Ng and Renault Lin. Esquimalt High, Belmont, and Reynolds schools all took place. These represent a great group of teachers and students: Michelle Choma, Patsy McCarter, Cathy Carolsfeld, Bryn Barker, John Schneider, Tomas Carolsfeld, Anna Carolsfeld, Katie Weisgerber, Brandyn Leitch, Kai Barker, Tom Eustace, Kelsey Scott, Robyn Chatwin-Davies, Leah Louie, Emily Mumford, Sara Johnson, Jessica Gelling, John Hardman, Kayla Emery, Rachelle MacDonald, Kris Champoux, Tessa Rieken, Karla Boescho, and Jessica Kennedy. Don Lowen (Education Coordinator), Tom Rutherford (Fisheries and Oceans Canada), Steve Hocquard and Bob Bridgeman (of The Friends) also attended.

Many of the teachers and students are associated with various environmental education groups and part of the HIT team. What a great group of people—turned out to stuff dead fish into a Creek to help bring it back to life. Well done!

Here is a poem written by one of the participants:

### **Ode to a Dead Chum**

Chum, Chum, Chum,  
Born of the River, Lived in the sea  
Boy, does your smell bother me.

You lived your life like no other could  
Following the ancestral patterns like you should.  
Hatched in the river, played there as a fry  
Journeyed to the ocean, only to return and die.

Potato chip bags, toxins, and beer cans  
All left there by the ignorance of man.  
Effectively poisoning your breeding grounds.  
Hard working ecologists world-renowned  
Search for restitution.  
Your decaying body becomes the solution.

Bagged and frozen in your lifeless state,  
Brought here by man in a big crate.

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Hauled by students, lodged in dead streams,  
Your decaying body hosting new dreams.  
The trees and invertebrates thank you, of course.  
I thank you too—after all, your cousin was my main course.

*Kayla Emery, Belmont School November 27/05*

December 18, 2006. We transplanted 2000 coho fry into the Creek. We got the release times mixed up and as a result just a few of us did the transplant. Thanks to the Goldstream folk for the fry—as usual, without their volunteers' efforts we would not have salmon returning to the Creek. Peter McCully, the hatchery manager, delivered the fry and Tom Rutherford saw the paperwork through the Transplant Committee.

Community partners for the event were, again, The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society, Saanich Parks, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, The Howard English Hatchery—Goldstream Salmon Enhancement Society, the Esquimalt Anglers, and friends of the Park.

February 17, 2006. Put four minnow traps into the Creek.

February 18, 2006. Picked the traps up; captured 6 fry in 4 traps. All the fry were in good shape – approximately 115 mm (which for this time of year is large) and deep-bodied to match. It was a long haul between trapping events but you will recall we need a rain-free 24-hour period to set the traps—and for us working folk it has to be on the weekend. We have had a very wet winter, with near record rainfall.

The oil spill was a nadir for us. The potential to spill oil or untreated sewage into the Creek is present at all times. To have oil spill into the Creek when we have adult salmon spawning is just an unfortunate case of all the ifs lining up and disaster resulting. We are not sure what the effect on the spawned eggs will be. We are very close to wild production coming out of the Creek. It is possible that the eggs were spoiled (if they were coated in oil little hope remains). Or they could have been buried deeply enough that there was no effect. Only time will tell. When you walk the part of the Creek near the beach, keep your eyes peeled for tiny fry. While transplanted chum seem to stick around for a while these will probably head out to sea soon after coming up out of the gravel, and they are small.

It turns out that the oil was spilled from a tank at the Fire Hall up by the University. Apparently some work was being done on the storage system by a contractor, part of

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the return system was left closed, the entire system pressurized, and the oil leaked past a seal. While the Roads and Drains crew searched for the leak source, and while it rained cats and dogs—which helped transport the oil that much quicker—the Fire Hall was not aware that the tank was leaking until the 800 litres was gone.

This is an event that must be profoundly embarrassing for the people in the Fire Hall because, as you know, these are the people that respond to hazardous material spills into the community—heating oil or diesel fuel is a hazardous material. I believe the tank that leaked has now been decommissioned. This spill has made many people think about emergency response procedures for these situations.

We met with Tim Wood (the Municipal Administrator) and Mike Ippen from Roads and Drains. Everyone is aware and agrees that something must be done to insure that this never happens again. Some of the initial suggestions are:

- register people that have oil tanks (to narrow down the scale of search);
- through public education, inform people that they are responsible for their oil tanks and how to maintain them;
- adopt better and more accessible technology for spill abatement;
- change the design of the weir; and
- break the watershed into smaller pieces so that spills can be mopped up locally rather than at the weir when the volume of water is impossible to deal with.

We have learned that we do not have an effective plan for dealing with oil spills into the Creek. This last example has demonstrated that fact. Oil is always brought down to the Creek in a rainstorm. When the weir overtops and the oil held behind it moves downstream we are powerless to stop it. The weir provides a useful function, intercepting the day-to-day pollution associated with automobiles and uneducated people who think that a storm drain is a free hazardous-waste dump. In those cases it can be cleaned up behind the weir. But for large spills this incident has proved indisputably that the weir is useless.

We are meeting regularly and we are going to keep the 'stop the pollution' initiative going until it is dealt with. Like all towns and cities on the east side of Vancouver Island we have outgrown our ability to dump our hazardous waste into the ocean. The combined effects of our pollution releases are the degradation of all of Georgia Strait—it has to stop and we aim to stop it here.

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For more information about stormwater and Douglas Creek check out the Capital Regional District Stormwater News: their January issue has a story about pollution in Douglas Creek. The January issue can be found at: [http://www.crd.bc.ca/es/environmental\\_programs/stormwater/index.htm](http://www.crd.bc.ca/es/environmental_programs/stormwater/index.htm).

Briefly, work for this summer:

- putting more windfalls into the creek for woody debris habitat as a top priority;
- improving access for spawning chum to all reaches of the Creek;
- sorting out the spill issues and moving ahead with stopping pollution;
- carrying out a coho eyed-egg transplant;
- transplanting 30,000 chum fry into the Creek; and
- the fall riparian shrub transplant.





## The Transmitter Site

As you may recall, Bell installed a cell telephone site atop a power pole near the beach parking lot entrance. In response to our original enquiries about how this could happen without any discussion, Saanich Engineering said they were never asked about the installation. After further enquiries, Engineering backed down, saying they were indeed asked in advance about the site, but had no options. We mention this because the City of Victoria has handled similar situations and has made financial agreements with a vendor offering a somewhat similar service (Wi-Fi, as reported in the TC).

We can now report some good news about this site; Bell has moved its operation to the Mount Douglas transmitter site and is in the process of removing the pole-mounted cell site. We have asked that they remove everything that they installed for this site, including the antennas, power transformer on an adjacent pole, and their large-diameter fibre optic cable that runs down Cedar Hill to the beach parking lot entrance.

Several years ago Saanich made a heritage designation of the tree canopy as you drive through Mount Douglas Park. Unfortunately, annual trimming of the trees to protect the various lines constantly threatens this canopy. We have recently discovered—and it is more than a little ironic—that the phone lines along Ash Road in the Park and continuing up Cordova Bay Road have not been in use for many years. Nevertheless, the regular tree trimming continues. We have asked that these lines be removed.

We have also identified that the power lines in the park along Cordova Bay Road take a very round-about path to the beach parking lot restrooms they serve,

and have asked that they be rerouted underground along the much shorter direct route. One of the many benefits will be the cessation of the tree trimming along that corridor and the return of the tree canopy.

With regard to the summit transmitter site, we are anticipating a major clean-up and restoration of the east summit, starting with the trail from the parking lot, a better access (stairs?) over the rocks, removal of the unused tower base and a general concept for protecting the "alpine" grass meadow area at the top. The existing conduit area leading from the underground building to the tower will be restored to a more natural state at the same time.

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### Board of Directors 2004/2005

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At-large	Kay Porter	5041 Wesley Road	V8Y 1Z5	658-5792
Youth Rep.	Mike Vaninsberghe	4585 Bonnieview Place	V8N 3V5	472-6138

Historian: Pam Lewis

### Membership

Please check your address label (above); if it reads less than '05, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Individual membership fee is \$5.00 per year

Membership    1 year                       2 year                       3 year

Send or deliver to: Graham Shorthill, Treasurer  
4623 Cordova Bay Road, Victoria B.C. V8X 3V6