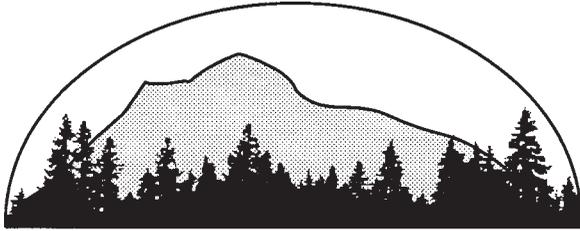


FRIENDS OF MOUNT DOUGLAS PARK



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2007



FRIENDS OF MOUNT DOUGLAS PARK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday April 24 2007
7:30 p.m.

McMorran's Seaview Room
5109 Cordova Bay Road

Agenda:

Reports from Committees

Election of Officers

Speaker:

Peter McCully
Howard English Hatchery
"Chum—Nature's Fertilizer"

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.*

President's Annual Report, 2006 - 07

We claim no credit for the most dramatic development within the Park over the past year. It was due to the weather. In December many trees were blown down, causing blockages on some of the trails and certain perils on Cordova Bay Road. Likewise the excess flow of water down the Creek dismantled major improvements to the fish habitat that had quite recently been installed. For the swift clearance of the blow-downs, where these were a hazard or a nuisance, we commend Parks Department staff. The destruction in the Creek has had one positive aspect—it gave Bob Bridgeman an opportunity to extend his knowledge of the nasty tricks nature can play on those who try to protect it, and to plan for the future even more ambitiously than before to forestall some of them.

In a sporadic way, trees that are dead or dying have attracted our attention throughout the year. The Parks Department has been consulting us about those that are sufficiently close to roads and trails to constitute a danger for the public. Most recently it has decided to bring down a number of moribund trees that border the trail running from the end of Shelbourne Avenue through to Ash Road parallel for part of the way to Edgemont Road. Since this cull will denude somewhat the last part of the trail leading to Ash, the plan is for replacement with indigenous maples, since that species seems to do well just there.

We continue to be occupied with long term issues about water. The Shoreline Stabilization Project has been hanging fire for some time. You may remember that Sandwell Engineering had been commissioned by Saanich to test on a limited basis the feasibility of stabilising the shoreline by means of the construction of the so-called Australian Sills. The purpose of these would be to nourish the beach by inducing tides and waves to deposit more sand. Sandwell, however, was temporarily lured away by Russia on a marine scouring project offshore of Sakhalin Island, and only now is ready to address the problem of our local beach. At a recent budget meeting Saanich has reconfirmed its approval of the expenditure of up to \$300,000 for the purpose of this feasibility study.

The other project that has been hanging fire is that of controlling the stormwater that drains into Douglas Creek from the extensive built-up areas of its watershed. As we have previously reported, Scott Murdoch, a landscaping consultant, had prepared a plan for this purpose. Much work on the project has yet to be done, including consultation

with property owners and getting access to funds, in preparation for the implementation of this plan's proposals. Good initial progress in some of these directions has been made.

As this last example illustrates, a gratifying degree of cooperation continues between our Society and Saanich staff in a number of departments. We are highly appreciative of the assistance we have been given in this way.

Donations

Over many years, we have made several halfhearted attempts at setting up the Society as a charity so that we could accept donations for various projects and issue tax receipts. The fact that responses from Revenue Canada and its successor have been less than overwhelming and the attitude of our Treasurer ("The less we have to do with Revenue Canada the better") have combined to ensure that no progress has been made.

Now it emerges, thanks to a discussion with Saanich Parks Department, that there are two routes open to us that already exist.

One is through the municipality itself and the other is through the Saanich Legacy Foundation: the first one tends to be used by groups that have specific projects they want to cost-share with the municipality and the second one is more long-term and more general in scope.

At first sight, the option through the Foundation seems the best way forward. If you have any experience with these alternatives and would like to share it, please contact either the President or the Treasurer (see the last page for addresses and phone numbers). This is unknown territory for us but, at long last, we hope we are on our way to first base on this issue.

Shoreline

Most items in this newsletter start with an apology for some delay or other, and the issue of shoreline protection is no exception. It's about four years ago that the recommendations from the advisory committee were accepted, with the prospect that the consultant would carry out nine months of model-building and fine-tuning before the actual work began in the next year's window of opportunity.



Like so many others, this project was overtaken by events. Firstly, the engineering staff at Saanich changed dramatically: some retired, some left and others changed hats. The second source of delay was hurricane Katrina; it is no exaggeration to say that everyone with a bit of coast line, all of a sudden, had an intense interest in coastal processes and needed to know the dangers they faced.

Sandwell Engineering, the consultants for this project, have a first-class international reputation and were inundated with requests for assessments and designs; the latest one involves the scouring around Sakhalin Island, off Russia's east coast. Now they are ready to return to this project and at the last February council meeting, Saanich voted a shade under \$300,000 to build and fine-tune the model. So, it is reasonable to assume that we should have a final proposal by the end of this year, with work to start in 2008 at the earliest.

A number of private home owners on either side of the park are interested in collaboration, mainly to repair and strengthen the structures in front of their homes. However, the combination of private and public work could make a major change to the look and effectiveness of the shoreline protection measures throughout Cordova Bay. Provided we don't lose sight of the three components that must work together for

the overall project to succeed, we have the enticing prospect of a larger beach, an intertidal zone alive with interest and stable cliffs.

The three elements are.

- Stabilization of the toe of the cliff
- Remediation of the beach and the ends of the rock fingers.
- Removal of water from the cliff face.

Blenkinsop Valley Community Association

It's time to welcome a new community association on the Park boundary, and hopefully another voice in its defence.

For a long time, the interests of the Blenkinsop Valley, particularly the northern parts, were handled by the Broadmead Area Residents Association but it is a sign of the times that the people who actually live in the valley now feel a different approach is needed.

It is not hard to see why; despite all the bylaws, the agricultural land reserve legislation, prohibitions about building in flood plains etc., pressure from developers will continue to rise in the years ahead. So it is important for our Society to go on record as supporting the retention of agriculture, hobby farmers, farm gate enterprises and the general preservation of green space in the valley. Moreover, we are able to offer some concrete help (no puns or Freudian slips intended).

As part of the Park's Charter there is a clause that allows the park to expand by incorporation of other municipal land adjacent to it. In real terms this means expansion into the Blenkinsop Valley as the remainder of the perimeter has been developed. The mechanism involves Saanich designating parkland when it approves any changes in land use.

From the point of view of the Park, this could lead to major wildlife corridors and better connections to the Lochside trail system, but at the top of any list must be the overall preservation of green space: as you may have noticed, they are not making it any more.

Developments on the Approaches

Since the last newsletter, the 17-home development at the corner of Cordova Bay Road and Blenkinsop has been given the green light and site preparations are now under way. When complete, it will mean that the number of houses between this junction and the Park, on the water side alone, will have tripled in less than four years. There are still several large properties in this area available for subdivision and development, while on the opposite side of the road, where the scope is much larger, development is just starting.

For the most part, this trend is leading to a transformation and rejuvenation of the neighbourhood— younger families moving in and the “empty nesters” and retirees moving away.

From the point of view of the Park, the increase in housing density, the chopped-down trees and the extra blacktop are all negatives. Fortunately, the positive side of the ledger more than compensates for these losses. The new arrivals have been attracted to the area in no small measure by the Park itself and they bring with them young families who are already exploring its many attractions.

For a long time, we have felt that the best guarantee for the Park’s security and integrity is to have as many different interest groups as possible making use of the Park. The new influx of people, particularly the young members of these families, adds to the mix and bodes well for the long term health of the Park itself and the surrounding area.

What an inconspicuous thing a sidewalk is! We have had a proper sidewalk for less than five years but it has made trips to the Park pleasant and safe for many people as it draws an ever-increasing number of walkers from the heart of Cordova Bay and Broadmead.

The stark contrast between the new developments and Sunnymead in the eighties is impressive. Back then, it was a brave soul that ventured across Royal Oak Drive and inched along the grass and gravel road edge towards the Park. As a result, very few did; the road acted as barrier for many who wanted to come. In contrast, the new residents have immediately added trips along the Park approaches to their morning or evening walks. Another example of the dictum, “If you build it, they will come.”

However, the road itself is still a problem, and one that will get worse unless action is taken. You can see it clearly by watching the 5:00 p.m. weekday traffic back up from the Royal Oak junction to the motel a kilometre away at the Park entrance. This is mainly through-traffic going to the highway, and it has been steadily increasing since the road was reopened.

Initially, the increased traffic was bearable because it flowed at an even pace: now it is intrusive because the volume in the evening exceeds the road's capacity. And soon there will be a major increase in local traffic cutting across the flow, which will add to the mix and cause more disruption.

The problem stems from the design of the junction itself, and it is time to think how it should operate in this decade rather than continue to tolerate flawed design from the eighties. As this is major concern for all residents in Cordova Bay, the President of the Cordova Bay Association, Roger Stonebanks, has asked the Association's traffic committee to look into the matter. We hope that a common plan of action will emerge and changes will happen sooner rather than later. Fortunately, modern technology comes to our aid, as most of the changes can be achieved by using paint on the roads and altering the timing of the signals.

The Douglas Creek Calendar

August 04, 2006. We met with representatives from Saanich Parks, Tom Rutherford (the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Community Advisor) and Steve Hocquard to discuss woody debris, introducing spawning gravel into the Creek and electrofishing to monitor the coho fry in the Creek.

August 12, 2006. We set four minnow traps in the usual spots. While setting the traps, we saw coho fry from the July 23, 2006 transplant.

August 13, 2006. We counted a total of 51 fry, approximately 70 mm in length.

September 08, 2006. Tom Rutherford, Steve Hocquard, and John Haynes, Brian Perrault, and Moses Pimental from Saanich Parks and I electrofished three locations in the Park.

We captured a total of 57 coho fry, 1 chum fry (an anomaly), and 10 sculpins, showing that the July transplants were settling in with the usual residents.

September 24, 2006. We celebrated BC Rivers Day with Park friends by cleaning the trash out of the Creek. We removed about a cubic metre of the usual rubbish, which we bagged and piled by the Park trash cans. Saanich Parks kindly took it from there.

September 26, 2006. The project this day was to build a spawning platform for chum salmon a few hundred metres below Ash Road Bridge. Steve Hocquard and Tom Rutherford facilitated, organized and physically worked on the project and 10 people from Saanich Parks were along to help. When we say spawning platform we mean a bed of rocks (2 cm to 5 cm in diameter) about 23 cm deep and 2 meters wide by 6 meters long. It's designed to provide the optimum spawning habitat. It certainly did that. You could watch the cool, clear oxygenated water flow out through the gravel—exactly what salmon eggs need for development to the alevin stage. We went on to put 12 cubic meters of gravel and 4 yards of blast rock into the Creek (Saanich Park people built a ramp and rolled the material down to us). We formed a weir with a downstream ramp of blast rock and the gravel upstream of the weir. Designed this way, the chum could swim up the ramp, over the weir and into the area of pooled water and spawning gravel.

Steve Hocquard worked for several hours more (into October 1) to make sure the gravel was placed just so. Steve is writing a paper on the project which he will submit as his thesis for his University of Victoria, Restoration of Natural Systems Diploma. The paper serves us as well by providing a permanent record of what was done and as a stepping stone for the next project by providing lessons learned and technical information. Saanich News did a good story, with a picture. Word is that Bob should sue about the picture, but who could look good after moving that material all day?!

October 06, 2006. Tom Rutherford, Steve Hocquard and I had painted four buckets of spawning gravel (green, blue, white and pink) and we put them into the Creek at four different locations—the green gravel into a riffle below the spawning platform; the blue below the hydrometric station at Ash Road; the white into the unstable reach of Creek above Ash Road; and the pink on the downstream side of the culvert below the weir. The idea was to find an accessible spot where we could show that gravel moves

downstream. Once found, we could put 10 meters of the right gravel into the Creek and allow the winter freshets to carry it downstream to supplement gravel-poor areas.

A limiting factor in Douglas Creek is spawning gravel —because the upper reach of the Creek is in pipes, there is no continuous gravel input as would be found in a natural stream. Over time gravel migrates downstream and if there is not sufficient upstream input then the Creek becomes gravel-poor in certain reaches.

October 22, 2006. We walked upstream along the Creek with Ann Scarfe, Joan Cowley and Viggo Holm (three of our four planting coordinators from Swan Lake) to look for suitable vegetation planting sites. Our choice was to plant the two large flat areas on the east side of the Creek, just downstream from the Edgemont access. These areas have been planted before, but with limited success, and need a lot more of the type of vegetation we are planting. Also this is a good area when kids are helping—relatively flat and no real physical dangers

November 03/04, 2006. We saw adult chum coming into the Creek. The high tides and the high flows in the Creek allowed the fish to move upstream. The chum had some trouble negotiating the large woody debris at the mouth of the Creek. We saw three dead trapped by the rising water and then left high and dry when the rain stopped.

November 05, 2006. We celebrated Significant Tree Day in Saanich with the usual riparian planting event. About twenty-five volunteers attended, fewer than we expected—last year we had 70.. On the positive side, we got better quality planting. The seed for next year is being stratified now.





We had a total of 1657 plugs of: red elderberry, thimbleberry, Nootka rose, ocean spray, Oregon grape, mock orange, and red-osier dogwood—all propagated by Rob Hagel at the Pacific Forestry Centre from seeds picked near Douglas Creek. As usual, the plants were of the finest quality. The PFC contribution makes the project viable, since it is unlikely that we could afford to have a commercial grower provide the same services.

We planted approximately 1000 of the plants on Significant Tree Day itself. The Friends' volunteers subsequently planted the rest of them. All this planting is creating a fringe of riparian vegetation along the length of the Creek, to enhance its appearance and to provide anew the well known benefits of a healthy riparian ecosystem.

The Pacific Salmon Foundation supplied the money to have Swan Lake provide experienced volunteers to supply planting strategies and techniques. These able people—Ann Scarfe, Joan Cowley and Judith and Viggo Holm—helped to make the project such a success. Kelly Mulhern and two other gardeners ably represented Saanich Parks Department.

The Pacific Salmon Foundation is a longtime supporter of our project.. The \$1000 they gave us this year not only meant we could get the Swan Lake people involved, we had some money left over to buy Styrofoam blocks for growing vegetative plugs to give to the Pacific Forestry Centre, which has supported us so long and well.

Having Kelly, Jill and Ally of Saanich Parks working with us was a bonus. They looked after the vegetation arriving on the site, loaned planting tools, and became planters, all of which contributed to the quality planting. The snacks Parks supplied were much appreciated: those and the cocoa, coffee, tea, cookies and muffins supplied by Kerri Morgan as a gift from Kettle Catering Incredible Eats were what kept us all going!

The riparian project is more effective every year: although we expect to lose a certain percentage, enough trees and shrubs been planted in the best spots that some are bound to survive.

November 12, 2006. Still planting the rest of the Significant Tree Day vegetation—71 mock orange, 16 big leaf maple, and 10 thimbleberry shrubs. Counted 30 live chum (some spawning) and 6 dead. We had seen a family of otters from time to time. We met a fellow who had seen the otters pull chum out of the Creek and eat them on the bank.

November 18, 2006. Planting vegetation in the Creek riparian again—77 red osier dogwood and 45 mock orange. We counted 11 live chum and 12 dead.

November 19, 2006. Again planting in the Creek riparian this day—42 ocean spray and 40 thimbleberry.

November 25, 2006. Planting once more, this day in the upper reaches—45 mock orange and 45 thimbleberry.

December 16, 2006. This day we planted 72 red osier dogwood and 35 thimbleberry again in the upper reaches.

December 26, 2006. Final day of riparian planting vegetation—65 hardhack, 16 big leaf maple and 30 thimbleberry, the last for the year.

February 08, 2007. In the Park with Tom Rutherford, Steve Hocquard, and Dave Swanbeck and Joe Vassallo (from Saanich Parks), planning to electrofish in three spots. The day was overcast and the prospect grim—the Creek had been nuked by the heavy rains in fall/winter of 2006—especially in November. There was some kind of a water quality incident happening in the Creek making the water so turbid that electrofishing had to be stopped. We couldn't control the process because we couldn't see the impacts on the fish. We picked up a couple of lovely coho fry—all silver and ready to move downstream into Cordova Bay. The condition of these fish—ready to migrate—helped stir the debate: should we set up a counting fence or (since the Creek had taken such a beating) should we leave it to next year?

February 18, 2007. We met Steve Hocquard in the Park and installed a temperature data logger in the now defunct PISCES tube at the downstream side of Ash Road Bridge. The data logger will allow us to continuously monitor water temperature to tie it in to other significant events in the Creek: chum hatch-outs and fry kills in the summer first flushes.

February 24, 2007

5. In the Park with Tom Rutherford, Steve Hocquard, and Kelly McKeown (Goldstream Salmon Enhancement Society and inventor extraordinaire) to set up the long-debated counting fence and fry trap. We had decided to install the counting fence after all, on the theory that since chum capture was new to most of us we should set it up and tweak the design. We expected to catch a few but we wanted the net and trap function and to work out any difficulties so that next year (when we could expect to handle thousands) we



would have the technique down pat.

The arrangement consists of a fine mesh net (1.3 m high) stretched across the Creek. Under the net, in the deepest part of the channel, we installed a 4" pipe that drained into a wooden box. The box is constructed (thanks Kelly McKeown) of stainless steel hardware and plywood with two baffle plates inside – the baffles to create shelter in the box during high flows. The top of the box is locked. The box is checked every day by the trapping crew: Bob Bridgeman, Steve Hocquard

(we have heard his name a lot this year: a super volunteer), and two new volunteers: Tom Browne (Haig-Brown Fly Fishers Association) and Ben Robinson (geography/hydrology student at University of Victoria).

The counting station is a major step forward for the restoration. Last year (after the oil spill onto the spawning salmon) I saw a few chum fry at the mouth of the Creek, but no one else did, so it was impossible to get a sense of what impact the oil spill had or how many moved out into the ocean. This year the destructive flows blew apart the spawning platform (where 20% of the chum in the Creek spawned). What with the poor coho results when we electrofished, and the movement of wood and gravel, we assumed that there would be very little life leaving the Creek this year.

Results since the counting fence and trap were installed (to **09 March 2007**): 254 coho fry alive, 77 dead, and 18 sculpins. The 77 dead happened pretty much during a high water event. The fry (very weak at this point) were pressed up against the net, entangled in floating organic debris and left high and dry when the water receded. We have readjusted the net and haven't found any more dead fry to date. This is what we mean by "tweaking" —working the bugs out while we are dealing with small numbers.

We are leading the way (again) by trapping chum fry to monitor the results of what is happening in the Creek—something that is not done much but, I suspect, will be done more often once the benefits are clear. This expertise is brought to us by fisheries professionals, whose knowledge, help, and encouragement are indispensable. And the Municipal sign shop is setting us up with a couple of signs for the fence and trap.

The chum return was better than ever this year. It is difficult to say exactly how many came into the Creek. New ones come in every day; carcasses are washed out, eaten, and buried under debris, virtually the length of the Creek. Steve Hocquard saw the high number this year—54, many of them spawning. So now we work, watch and wait for next November—one of these years we will have such a number of returnees—chum, coho and sea run cutthroat – that it will take our breath away.



The spawning platform was smashed to atoms in November 2006, but we learned. Those lessons will be applied in summer 2007. We are going to build several (stronger) connected spawning platforms with incorporated energy-dissipating structures. Looking at the quantity of chum fry that survived last years extreme flows, we feel that if we can get sufficient spawning gravel in place, and if we can get the returns up, we will have a sustainable run of chum at least—we are that close!

Almost all the woody debris Saanich Parks arboriculture crew had put into the Creek moved this winter—there are now only a few major debris jams rather than many small ones. To build the wood back into the stream, we will have to use new windthrows as they become available and perhaps devise strategies to bring root wads or other large pieces of wood into play.

The chum carcass transplant didn't happen this year. We couldn't get any carcasses from the hatchery, so we settled for the somewhere-around-100 that came in naturally. We like to get the carcasses as far upstream as possible, so we are keen to carry on with the transplants as long as possible or reasonable.

We have submitted two proposals for funding to the Pacific Salmon Foundation this spring. One requests \$1000.00 to be used in the riparian planting planned for Significant Tree Day in Saanich in November . The second requests \$7004.00 for the completion of a series of spawning platforms.

Chum release is scheduled for sometime in early May. The Howard English Hatchery has enough chum fry to supply one project—about 40,000 chum—and our project has been chosen for their support!



Residents Working to Rejuvenate Mount Douglas, Brodick and Bow Parks

Residents are taking action to deal with the spread of non-native, invasive plants, such as English Ivy, Holly, Daphne, Scotch Broom and Himalayan Blackberry in Mount Douglas, Brodick and Bow Parks!

Work is underway but many more volunteers are needed at both sites.

Some reasons to consider joining:

- Removing invasive plants helps restore a park to it's natural state by providing space, water, and light for native plant species to regenerate and flourish.
- The work is good outdoor exercise.
- Likeminded people can meet, work together, and forge new friendships.
- Volunteers quickly see the results of their efforts.
- A person discovers they can contribute and truly have a positive effect on our environment.
- This work benefits all residents and wildlife living in our community

Work parties at Mount Douglas Park occur the first Sunday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Work parties at Brodick/Bow Parks occur every Monday morning, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

**For more information or to volunteer please contact Judy Spearing at
472-0515 or email to jandd_spearing@shaw.ca**

These projects are supported by
The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society,
Gordon Head Residents' Association
Saanich Parks Department

Summit Project

In a joint meeting with us, the Saanich Parks Department identified the summit parking lot and east summit for restoration and enhancement work this year. They will be formulating a detailed proposal that will include enhancing the summit parking lot area, possibly including an information and map kiosk near the start of the main summit lookout trail. The intention is to focus on this summit for the majority of visitors, especially those arriving by car.

For the east summit, they are developing a proposal for improving the trail and the construction of stairs over the rock bluff. They would also like to close some of the ad-hoc trails to this summit, restoring the slopes by including plants natural to this area. On the east summit, we will be exploring with them the best way to make a better defined trail that will help to preserve the natural vegetation there. The unused tower base will be removed at the same time.

A related project is to develop a trail-marking scheme for the unimproved trails such as the steep trail descending south from the east summit. Like several other trails, it has become a myriad of trail variations over and around the rock areas since there is no real definition. The hope is that with a good marking scheme, hikers will be able to follow the correct trail and the other variations can recover.



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If you have any questions regarding this event, please call

Terry Morrison, Executive Director, 479-0211

The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society

Mount Douglas has a long history—a survivor of the Ice Age—and for hundreds of thousands of years it was untouched.

Eventually it became a landmark for natives paddling over to Vancouver Island from the San Juans. They pulled their canoes up on Mount Douglas beach, as did the Songhees on their way from up-island to Fort Victoria.

When the Hudson Bay Company built Fort Victoria in 1843, 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.

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.”



Farms had already grown up around Mount Douglas, and its first truly commercial use was pasturage for sheep and cattle. The trails in the Park were created initially by the sheep raised on nearby farms, and bear the names of early settlers—James Todd, the Merriman brothers, John Irvine, Samuel Norn, and George Blenkinsop of Glendenning Farm.

In the 1900s the part of the Park closest to the water became a popular site for outings, and it was called "Hyde Park". In 1910, the mayor of Victoria 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. Already in the 1920s there was a “refreshment place” near the Park entrance.

As early as 1930 there were concerns about the use of the Park. Due to complaints from citizens about gravel excavation, garbage dumping, tree-cutting, goat grazing and the construction of an alternate section of Cordova Bay Road, 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." 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.

During the 30s, 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.

During the 40s, the Park's second restaurant provided a full steak dinner for 35¢. A jukebox was installed and it became a hangout for teens.

In August 1971, fire blazed through 10 acres on the west slope of the mountain. A 1972 fire consumed 50 acres and took 6 days to put out.

As early as 1935 erosion of the seashore banks was already a concern. By the 70s, bank stabilization on the beach consisted of rock fill 15 feet high and 150 feet long.

In 1975 the first riprap was poured onto the beach in hope of holding the bank. A program was also established to encourage growth on the clay banks.

In the 1980s, woodcutting was still being allowed in the Park. In 1989, tons of riprap were deposited on the beach achieving nothing except to endanger the beach itself, as well as the shore property of nearby residents. By this time, 10,000 vehicles a day were taking the route through the Park.

The Park was being administered mainly from Victoria in a rather lacklustre way. Public concern had been building for years, and in October of 1989 the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society founded itself. One of its first acts was to present strong opposition to the proposed relocation of Cordova Bay Road 30 metres further into the Park. A second was to defend the Park from further depredation.

Finally, Saanich Council met on the summit of Mount Douglas and enacted the renewal of the original Trust.

The terms were essentially the same as in the original Trust, except that the road was subdivided out, but given its own unique surveyed lines beyond which it may not go, and that the transmitter site was given special designation, but kept as part of the Park, with an agreement (since carried out) that, as proposed, the transmitter site building would be buried beneath the parking lot.

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

Safe at last.



Take time to renew your Friends' membership for 2007/2008, either at the Annual General Meeting or by using the form on the back of this newsletter.

WE COUNT ON YOU.

Board of Directors 2006/2007

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 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 |
| Streams | Robert Bridgeman | 1481 Elnido Road | V8N 4Z7 | 477-7464 |
| At-large | Dave De Shane | 4088 Livingstone Ave. N. | V8N 3A6 | 721-3492 |
| At-large | Claude Maurice | 2200 Lorne Terrace | V8S 2HB | 598-3331 |
| 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 '06 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