



Denman Conservancy Association
P.O. Box 60 Denman Island, B.C. V0R 1T0

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2001

an island legacy

Our efforts to purchase Chickadee Lake continue

unabated and undaunted. You may have noticed that our fundraising is intense, unremitting and downright shameless to save Chickadee! Generous individual donations and pledges of \$10 to \$10,000 from islanders and other supporters continue to arrive. Fund-raising activities, such as the Home & Garden Tour, have also helped bolster the total. This summer, we specifically reached out to businesses and professions. We wish to honour those who so generously answered this call. In the months to come we will publish a list of all our donors. In the meantime, we are escalating our fundraising in the hopes of seeing Chickadee Lake out of harm's way as soon as possible. We need your help now. For information on making a donation or pledge, please contact: Denise MacKean (335-1608), Patti Willis (335-0351), Concha Dennis (335-2295) or Leslie Dunsmore (335-2918).

We are grateful to our business and professional donors...

Abraxas Books & Gifts/DIBS
(Corrine Bjorge & Shawn Woods)
Nooral A. Ahmed Law Corporation
Back to Basics Earth Club Factory
(Sheldon Remple &
Donna Woodley)
Coast Realty Group (Don Luckett &
Teresa Comeau)
Comox Valley Mediation Services
(Leslie Dunsmore, Juan Barker,
Kel Kelly)
Tom Dennis Pottery
Denman Bakery & Pizzeria
(Bill Marlor & Leslie Gillett)
Denman Bottle Depot
(to our many unknown benefactors)
Denman Craft Shop
Denman Island Chocolate
(Daniel & Ruth Terry)
Mary Lynn Desroches, O.D
-Optometric Corporation
Eagledown B&B
(Diane Edgar & Michael Stanton)

Edible Island Whole Foods Market
Ken Fisher Design & Construction
Greenhill Wicker Restorations
(Graham Brazier)
Hancock Natural Resources Group
Holiday for Vertebrae (Jerry Miller)
Homeward Design (Jim Matthew)
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Drs. Kibblewhite & Montgomery Inc.
Komous Valley Motors Ltd.-
Courtenay Mazda
LeBaron Studio -- Pottery
(Bentley LeBaron)
Leung Grocery Ltd.
Mac's Oysters Ltd.
Janet Moe - Handbuilt Pottery
Natural Garden Landscaping
(Brian Miles)
Neufeld Pottery (Wendy Neufeld)
Olstead & Holekamp
(Douglas Olstead)
OrCon Construction (Orla Haagerup)
Raven Forest Products

Roseworks Studio (Alison Walkley)
Royal LePage in the Comox Valley
(Bob Gee)
Royal LePage (Albert McKinley)
Sandy's On Denman (Sandy Shaffer)
Paul Scanlon - Woodworking
Bev Severn Pottery
Silver Pine Studio (Peter Karsten)
Stevens Media Solutions
(Sam Stevens)
Dr. Doreen Tetz & Peter Marshall
Tutu's Bed & Breakfast (Jude Kirk)
Jonathan Veale -
Financial Consultant
Patti Willis - Pottery
Wildside Native Plant Nursery
(Roy & Anne Vidler)
Windy Marsh Farm
(Bob & Velda Parsons)

We hope you will show your appreciation to these donors with your patronage. The above list is as of October 10, 2001. If we have inadvertently omitted any business donors, please bring it to our immediate attention.

*We appreciate the generosity of government & foundations
for their support of the Island Legacy Project ...*

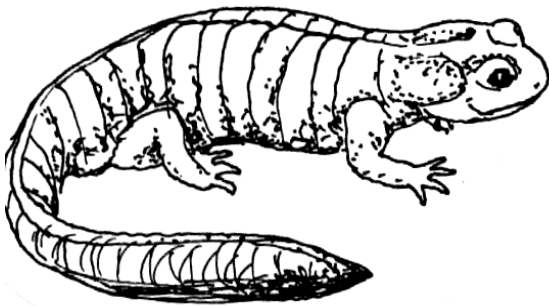
Community Animation Program (Environment/Health Canada) * EcoACTION 2000 * EJLB Foundation
Endswell Foundation * Islands Trust Fund * Nature Conservancy of Canada * The Land Conservancy * Real Estate Foundation of
British Columbia * Regional District of Comox-Strathcona

Our Vision, Our Reality

Denman Conservancy came into being a decade ago, spawned by a statistic, a crisis and a dream. The statistic was the alarming realization that only three per cent of the island was permanently protected as park or nature reserve. Though we enjoyed access to Weldwood's extensive forest holdings, there was no guarantee these would remain as forest land. Our population had doubled in the eighties and was expected to double again. We were living in a fool's paradise with virtually no land set aside to permanently protect the island's wonderful diversity of plant and animal life and provide green space for residents and visitors.

The crisis was two-fold: the beginning of logging in the Pickles Road woods surrounding the beaver pond, and the imminent logging and subdivision of the Lindsay-Dickson Forest.

The dream was of creating a protected areas network across the island - a landscape quilt of areas set aside forever because of their ecological or historic importance, their recreational value or scenic beauty, and stitched together by private holdings managed through a voluntary land stewardship program.



Community response was instantly enthusiastic; in less than a year, memberships and donations had raised over \$11,000 and fund-raising events - primarily the first-ever home and garden tour - had brought in another \$13,000. The Association acquired charitable taxation status and by December of 1992 had raised \$70,000 to purchase 9.6 hectares of land on Pickles Road. After purchase the land was donated to the Islands Trust Fund to be held as the Inner Island Nature Reserve. This acquisition was part of a larger vision first articulated in 1988 in a study conducted by the Ratepayers and Residents Association.

Back in 1977 the community had succeeded in having the Vancouver Foundation and Raven Forest Products donate

23 hectares of land, including most of the beaver pond and surrounding forest, to the Crown to be held in perpetuity as a nature reserve. The parcels bought by Conservancy in 1992 connect the pond reserve with the quarter-section of Crown land that crosses Pickles Road. The vision we had - and still have - is to create Denman's largest protected natural area by combining the original 23 hectare pond parcel and the 9.6 hectare purchase property with the adjacent quarter-section of Crown land as well as the nearby quarter-section of Crown land just south of Chickadee lake. Our vision was that all these parcels could and should be retained as Crown land but be transferred to the Islands Trust Fund.

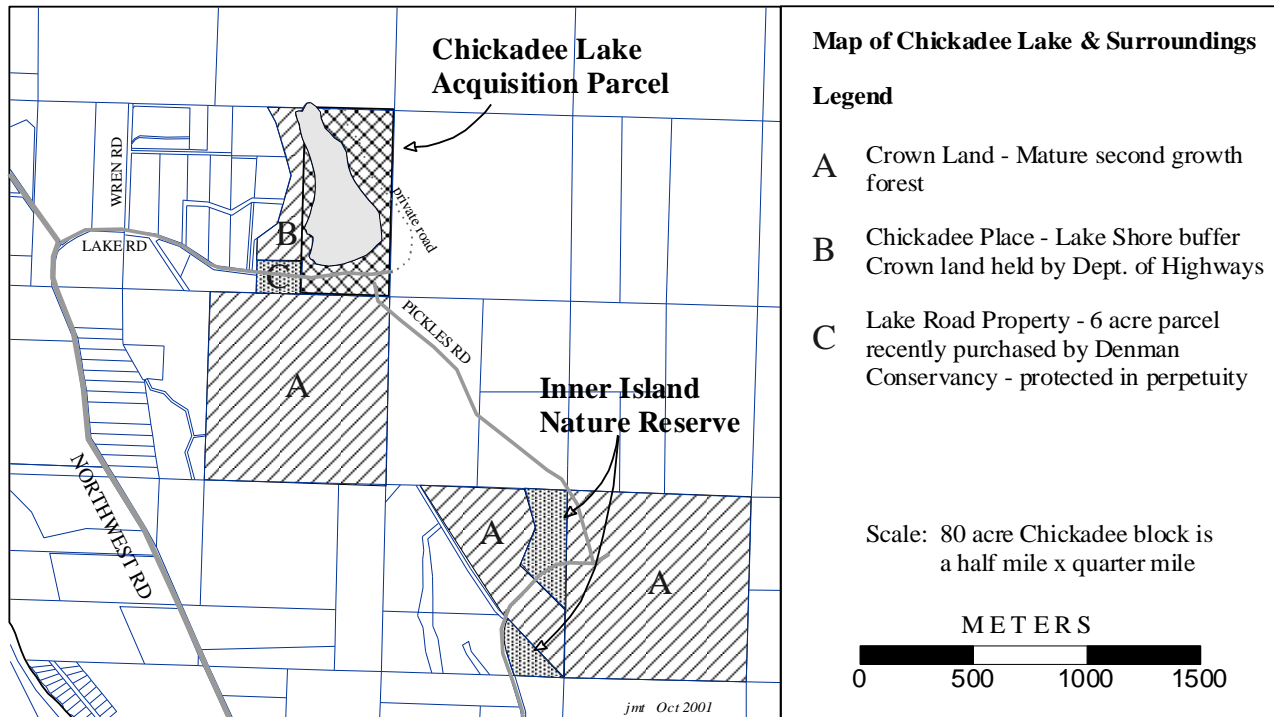
Unfortunately, successive provincial governments of all stripes have refused to act upon repeated requests and applications to have these Crown parcels transferred to the Trust Fund. For the past thirty years - long before Conservancy came into being - the community has consistently and repeatedly stated its desire to have all Denman vacant Crown land set aside for conservation and low-impact recreation uses. A meeting is scheduled this month with MLA Stan Hagen to again press for permanent protection of these lands through completion of the Inner Island Nature Reserve.

In the interim, the sale of Weldwood's Denman holdings to Hancock Timber, and the subsequent re-sale to 4064 Investments, dramatically escalated the urgency of securing more protected land, squeezed the time-line and inflated land prices. Racing against time, Conservancy struck a new acquisitions committee to develop a Legacy Project which identified nine parcels with high priority for conservation. Unhappily, six of the nine have subsequently been clear cut and their conservation values severely degraded.

An exception is the 30-hectare Chickadee Lake parcel which borders three sides of the lake. Conservancy gave top priority to purchase of this property from 4064. Again with consolidation in mind, in 2000 Conservancy purchased the 2.7

hectare Lake Road property which abuts the 4064 land to its east, the vacant Crown land quarter-section to its south and Chickadee Place to its north. Chickadee Place extends along the western shore of the lake and is held by the Ministry of Highways.

Success in acquiring the 4064 Chickadee Lake parcel would ensure that the entire lake was surrounded by protected land and, joined with the Crown parcels and nearby Inner Island Nature Reserve, would form a magnificent protected area of more than 200 hectares encompassing the lake, pond, wetlands, streams and upland forest. The purchase of Chickadee Lake and transfer of the Crown parcels remain ongoing challenges in pursuit of this dream.



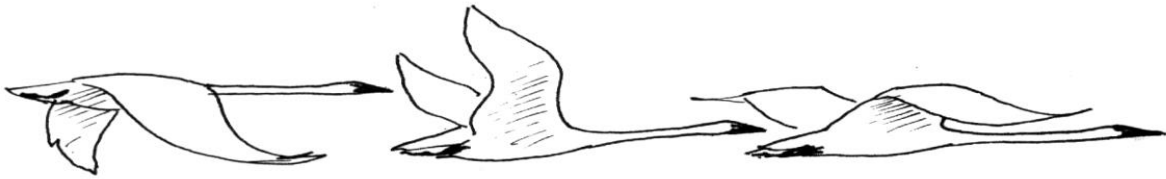
But one of the many things we've learned over the past decade is not to give up on dreams. The other crisis that brought Conservancy into being - acquisition of the Lindsay-Dickson Forest - took more than ten years of fund-raising, lobbying and negotiating. It teetered repeatedly on the brink of collapse. Portions of the forest were badly mauled by patch logging and skidder trails shortly before it was acquired. And yet in the end it got done.

Notwithstanding the various difficulties and setbacks, and the Province's unfortunate decision to broker a deal involving exchange land on Quadra Island, at least Lindsay-Dickson has been spared the fate of far too much forested land on Denman, Quadra and many other islands. The property's outstanding conservation values have not been permanently compromised and will remain as a living legacy for those who come after us.

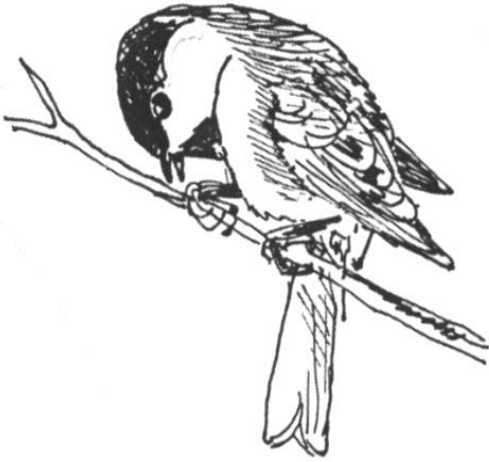
Throughout this decade of hard work and tough decisions, Conservancy has enjoyed tremendous support from across the community and beyond our shores. Supporters' generosity of spirit - in joining the organization, serving on the board of directors, volunteering for fund-raising events, serving on committees, lending technical support to our projects, donating funds, making pledges and loans, participating in the stewardship program, attending Conservancy workshops - has kept the initial dream alive and indeed allowed it to grow.

With your continued support, and a bit of luck, Denman may still achieve, beyond the clear cuts, a protected network of nature reserves and private lands in stewardship of which we can all be proud.

Des Kennedy



Conservancy's Lake Road Property



A fairly thorough plant inventory has been carried out on the "Lake Road Property" over the past six months. The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund gave financial backing to this project and we are extremely grateful for their support in establishing baseline information on existing species. This inventory will serve us well when we write Conservation Covenants for the site and it will be useful for future educational projects.

The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund is the group that so generously funded a large part of our Stewardship Project and we like to think of the 6 Acre Lake Road Property as Conservancy's own stewardship showcase.

Denise MacKean

Lindsay-Dickson Nature Reserve

The goal for management of the Lindsay-Dickson Nature Reserve is to maintain the property in perpetuity as a nature reserve for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the residents of B.C.

To achieve this goal, the following general management objectives have been established:

- Allow natural ecological processes to function with no or minimal human interference, except in the case of wildfire.
- Ensure that permitted uses will not significantly impair the natural condition of the site or impact special features or resources on the site.
- Allow minimal-impact use of the reserve in appropriate areas for hiking and nature observation.

From the draft Management Agreement

Thanks to the Newsletter crew:

Peter Karsten, sketches; Jerry Thornton, map;
Patti Willis, Island Legacy Project;
John Millen & Patti Willis, edit/layout.



Morrison Marsh South: Covenant

Conservancy Board acknowledges with thanks the team of people who have been working for most of a year to get a Conservation Covenant in place on the Morrison Marsh South property next to Boyle Point Park. Much of the work has been volunteer "in kind" matching an Eco-Action grant from Environment Canada. Progress on this project is on target and a full public report will be forthcoming.

Bentley LeBaron

Other Activities this year

- Islands in the Salish Sea: mapping project
- Home and Garden Tour: fundraiser
- ‘Starting Out’ educational field trips
- Crown Lands: Islands Trust Public Land Strategy
- Earthday Walk

Denman Conservancy Association Directors for 2001

Juan Barker	Anne de Cosson
Concha Dennis	Patrick Fawkes
Marilyn Jensen	Des Kennedy
Bentley LeBaron	Denise MacKean
John Millen	Cynthia Minden
John Tayless	Patti Willis

Visit our website: www.denmanis.bc.ca/conserv

for information on the Chickadee Lake acquisition target, the Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve, our Stewardship Program and next year’s Home & Garden Tour.