

The Friends of Mt. Douglas Park Society Newsletter January 1991

Membership Dues: A 1990-91 membership form is enclosed. If you haven't already sent in your membership, please use the form at the back of the enclosed policy booklet.

Society Status: We are a registered society in the Province and so now it is onward and upward to tackle the Feds and obtain Tax Exempt status from Revenue Canada

Meeting Schedule: As we discussed at the last meeting, the plan is to hold three regular meetings a year (Fall, Winter and Spring) and to call additional meetings as the need arises. There will be a newsletter mailed to everyone about three weeks before a regular meeting.

Next meeting: 7-30 p.m. Tuesday 19th February 1991 Lunch Room, Claremont Senior Secondary School, 4980 Wesley Road, Cordova Bay
Speakers with round table discussion: Edo Nyland (John Dean Park) and Don Shaw (Swan Lake and Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary).

Transmitter Site: Most of the recent media attention we have received has centred around this topic. In the presentation to Saanich, we made the following points.

- The statement that the Mt. Douglas transmitter site was for 9-1-1 emergency telephone service was mis-leading, if not false. Cellular telephone access to 9-1-1 is **not** dependent on the Mt. Douglas site, despite some reports.
- Cellular telephone services can be equally served without the use of Mt. Douglas. In fact, the word "cellular" describing this type of service comes from the idea of many small radio *cells* centered around a local transmitter and **not** from a single, high site. An

important concept in cellular technology is to avoid interference, as is caused by high locations, to neighboring areas so that the valuable frequencies can be reused in nearby areas.

- We expressed our concern about statements that all emergency communications were being routed through this site and also about the claims that this single site was necessary for emergency communications.
- We also expressed our concern about the long term technical viability of this site. The rapid advances in communications technology introduces serious doubt about the *necessity* of this site in the five to fifteen year time frame. We question the economics and permanent Park damage for such a short period. Mt. Douglas Park just celebrated its one hundredth anniversary, we hope it will be still be a *natural* park at the end of the next century.
- There should be no need to remove land from the park as there are by-laws already in existence to cover such cases within Saanich.

In the discussion that surrounded this issue, it came to light that a subdivision plan had been quietly registered on November 7, 1990 which, if carried out, would remove land from around the present site, a strip down the southern face for the power lines and all the through roads within the park.

We also couldn't help note the irony of Saanich paying \$80,000 to remove Park land!

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th. November 1990

1. Approval of the agenda for the meeting. (Moved by Kenneth Rankin)
CARRIED
2. The introduction of the new executive was done by Darrell Wick, (see attached newsletter).
3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting. (Moved by Luke Crebas)
CARRIED.
4. Old business; NONE
5. **President's report:** Darrell reviewed the first year of our operation highlighting the successes (changes to the location of the sewerline and

to the policy of removing wood from the park) and noting the degree of consultation that now takes place with the Parks Department.

He saw three major threats to the Park:

- (a) Sale of the transmitter site for \$80,000 and subdivision of land from the Park.
- (b) The possibility of a 4 lane road through the park.
- (c) Modifications to the 1889 grant as it is transferred from Victoria to Saanich via the Ministry of Crown Lands.

He also suggested our primary goal as a Society should be to establish a voice for the park using some or all of the following:

- (a) Prepare and distribute a concise information package.
 - (b) Involve the membership to a greater extent via the standing committees.
 - (c) Liaison between ourselves and the various ratepayer associations and interested groups surrounding the park (e.g. Cordova Bay, Gordon Head, Broadmead Area and Saanich Greenbelt).
 - (d) Work towards the insertion of a statement concerning the role of the park into each local area plan.
6. Hal Knight commented on the inclusion of the upgrading of Cordova Bay Road in the recent referendum and on the possibility of getting a copy of the technical report on the transmitter site from John Mika.
 7. Darrell proposed a write-in campaign to B.C. Cellular, Cantel, and to the Minister of Crown Lands (Mr. Dave Parker).
 8. The treasurer reported a balance of \$180 and that collection of membership fees and donations for 1991 would start that evening. (A 1990-91 membership form is enclosed!)
 9. Darrell introduced the Guest Speaker, Dr. Nancy Turner an ethnobiologist and a member of the Healthy Saanich 2000 Committee. There were two main parts to her talk, the first dealt with local initiatives in the development of a healthy environment. She illustrated her talk with local examples (George Dawson in the 1870's and the Abode project today) and set them in the larger context as outlined by Paul Erlich and others. The second part was a review of the structure and operation of the Healthy Saanich 2000 committee. The core findings

and recommendations are contained within the nine pamphlets they have published. Copies can be obtained by writing to Saanich 2000.

10. New committees:

Membership: Marshal Ney has agreed to take on this task.

We still need a telephone committee.

11. General review of the new policy document (copy enclosed):

Comment: we need more pro-active statements on public education, what constitutes a natural park, etc.

Many of the other items were covered by Saanich By-Laws and our ideas must take this into account.

Summer and winter closure for fire hazards and black ice respectively.

Fire Fighting provisions (electric pumps?) Dogs, horses, campfires and rubbish

12. Need to collect data and to include students in the process.

13. New transmitter policy based on the presentation to Saanich was introduced. After discussion, Claude Maurice moved acceptance, seconded by Kenneth Rankin. CARRIED

14. Meeting ended 9:25 p.m.