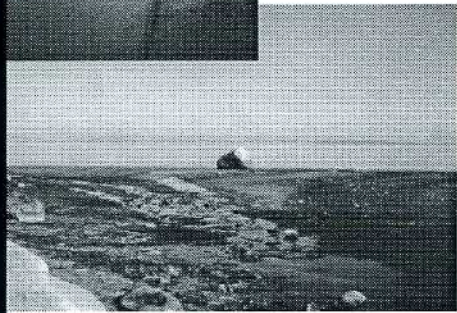
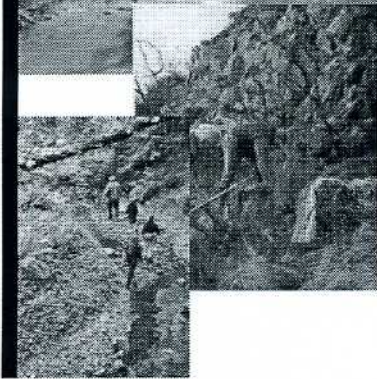


*The Friends of Mount Douglas  
Park Society*



**Newsletter**

*April 2002*



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Plan to attend the

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

7:30 p.m. Thursday April 25

McMorran's Seaview Room 5109 Cordova Bay Road

Reports, Election of Officers

Speaker: Jessica Dawe of City Green  
"Alternatives to Pesticides"

### **President's Report**

The Annual General Meeting for 2002 is just ahead. Hence time once more for an annual retrospect. Among matters already mentioned in previous newsletters, the highlights for the year have been:

- **The establishment of a Stormwater Committee**, chaired by our treasurer, Graham Shorthill. Members include municipal staff; the Stormwater Quality Branch of the Capital Regional District; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; the former provincial Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks; South Islands Aquatic Stewardship Society; and by two other members of our executive board. This committee was formed to find practical solutions to the damaging effects of stormwater, and has taken the watershed of Douglas Creek as its initial case-study. Since its inauguration in January 2001, it has met every month except during the summer.
- **A downspout disconnection project**, an initiative arising out of these meetings. It began with the distribution of 500 doorknob flyers in a low-lying part of Gordon Head: the flyers invited householders to have, where conditions were suitable, the downspouts from their roofs disconnected at a nominal cost by E-teams (a youth employment enterprise) supplied by the Veins of Life Society. Members of the Friends' executive board distributed the flyers, and the equipment was supplied by Saanich Engineering Services. Unfortunately, the actual process of

disconnection was rather slow in starting due to difficulties in scheduling times with householders, and now the E-teams have been disbanded as a government economy measure. However, we plan to resume at some later date.

- **The closure of Churchill Drive to car traffic on Sunday mornings.** This is an enhancement for the increasing number of pedestrians, and also for some cyclists, who take that road up to the mountain top as part of their weekend relaxation. They are now exempt from the noise and fumes they would hitherto have encountered. Saanich Council has approved the Sunday morning closure for a further year,
- **Three grants:**
  1. \$5000 from Saanich municipality to employ two students, Andrea Schiller and Graham Watt-Grem, to remove ivy and study ivy control on two demonstration sites alongside Churchill Drive. They have now issued a report that describes the work they have completed, outlines the nature of the problems encountered, and makes recommendations for future work.
  2. \$14,918 from South Islands Aquatic Stewardship Society, to run the PISCES (Passive in Situ Concentration-Extraction Sampler) project and hydrometric survey in the Creek for a further year. Reports and analysis are coming forward very shortly.
  3. \$5100 from the Public Conservation Assistance Fund to enable us to continue long-term water quality trend monitoring of the Creek, to investigate problems associated with urban development, and to identify and change bylaws to ensure protection of the Creek.

Other activities have included:

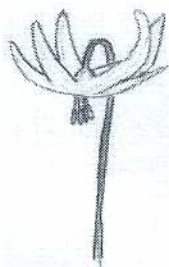
- discussions with Saanich staff
  - representations to Council, on the stability of the Cordova Bay Road cliffs through the Park
  - ongoing work on the Creek
  - participation in a workparty set up by Saanich Council to consider options for development on Braefoot Road
  - attendance at a two-day Low Impact Development Conference (run by the CRD) by Bob Bridgeman and Kenneth Rankin
  - tree planting.
-

## A Diverse Landscape

Each of us views Mt. Douglas Park through different eyes; a reflection of our values and a result of experiences which serve us in our interpretation of a sense of place.

Time spent in various ecosystems in the park has resulted in a body of work done expressing flora and fauna from a young student's point of view. They would like to share some of their illustrations which may be found on an early spring walk.

Passing through the Douglas Fir-Big leaf Maple ecosystem reveals White Fawn Lilies (*Erythronium oregonum*) with their nodding white blossoms and mottled green and brown leaves. The scent of delicate white blooming Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) and pale pink to deep red, Red-flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) fills the air. Soon to follow is the Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*) with its three white petals, turning pink after pollination.



White Fawn Lily  
(Gray Tait)



Indian Plum  
(Michael Vaninsberghe)



Red Flowering Currant  
(Michael Vaninsberghe)



Western Trillium  
(Anisha Lagah)

Hike up into the Garry Oak ecosystem, <sup>where</sup> Common Camas (*Camassia quamash*) is poking its grasslike leaves up through the leaf litter <sup>in the Garry Oak</sup> along with the reddish-purple Satin Flowers (*Sisyrinchium douglasii*), which are usually the first flowers of early spring.



Common Camas  
(Brittany Condie)



Satin Flower  
(Aftan Harvey)

