

# FRIENDS OF MOUNT DOUGLAS PARK

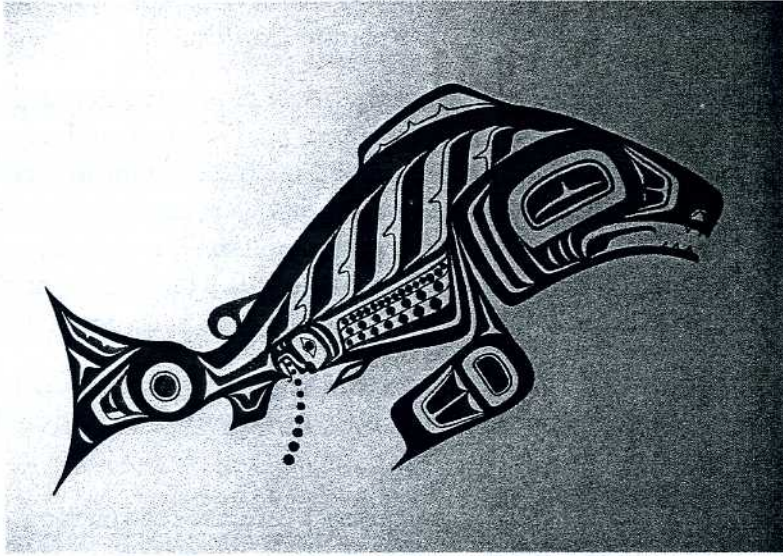


**NEWSLETTER**  
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



On May 6, at Shawnigan Lake School, at the 2006 Fisheries and Oceans South Vancouver Island Community Involvement Recognition Day, The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society was awarded the prestigious 10-year award for our restoration of Douglas Creek.

The plaque reads:

*In recognition  
Of the volunteer contribution  
To Canada's salmonid resource  
Friends of Mt. Douglas Creek Society  
10 years  
Thank you from  
Oceans, Habitat and Protection Branch  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

This award is high praise for every supporter and every volunteer but—as we all know—the highest praise of all must go to our Streams Director, Bob Bridgeman.

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## **In other matters:**

We held our annual general meeting for 2006 on the evening of April 18. The venue, as in previous years, was McMorran's Sea View Room in Cordova Bay.

In his short opening address the president set the issue of stormwater control as the major theme for the meeting. However, the business part opened with a number of reports on other matters as well. Of these Graham Shorthill's financial report for the past year came first, and was duly approved. Other reports were made by Bob Bridgeman (the Creek), Darrell Wick (the transmitter site and related issues) and Graham Shorthill again (plans for stormwater control and also for the beach). These brought all present up to date with the variety issues to which our activities have been addressed.

Next came the pleasant duty of making a presentation to Dick Battles, in grateful recognition of the extraordinary amount of ivy he has succeeded in eliminating from the Park by his single-handed efforts.

Thereafter Kay Porter conducted the election of office bearers for the coming year. Since she herself had decided to stand down, Claude Maurice, a member of long standing and a former director, was elected to replace her. Darrell Wick and Graham Shorthill were elected for a further two years. Kay's departure from the executive should not go without acknowledgement here of her invaluable work, in conjunction with Sheilagh Ogilvie, in keeping the Society's Archives in good shape.

With the necessary business thus behind us we were able at last to give the issue of stormwater control a more exclusive attention. To assist in this we were honoured by the presence of two highly qualified guest speakers.

Mike Ippen, the Director of the municipality's Public Works Department, led off with an overview of the complexities involved in the maintenance and improvement of the municipality's stormwater infrastructure.

After an interval for refreshments, Angela Evans, a Saanich environmental planner, followed with a visually illustrated account of measures taken by the City of Portland to absorb rain water that falls within the limits of its built-up areas. Attention to these two highly informative presentations was keen.

And the meeting's final adjournment brought an end to an instructive evening.

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# Douglas Creek

## Creek calendar

**April 16, 2006.** We celebrated Easter Sunday at Cadboro Bay United Church. Reverend Ross White, the minister, asked us to make a presentation to a group of children and adults while the children waited for their confirmation ceremony. We spoke of salmon ecology and watershed issues and demonstrated watershed processes using the Douglas Creek Watershed model (including Rubbermaid tub and two small sprinkling cans). The watershed model was organized by Ross White and supplied by Nikki Wright of the SeaChange Marine Conservation Society.

**March 27, 2006.** Chum fry that were spawned naturally last fall came out of the Creek gravel into the lower reaches of the Creek. This is an event we've been waiting for—the first wild production out of the Creek that we have actually seen. There were only a few fry, but since we were there infrequently and for short periods the numbers seen may be related to observation time and appropriate lighting as well as habitat limitations.

**May 6, 2006.** At Shawnigan Lake School, the 2006 Fisheries and Oceans South Vancouver Island Community Involvement Recognition Day awarded our Society the prestigious 10-year award for our restoration of Douglas Creek.

**May 18, 2006.** Walking up the Creek we saw 154 chum fry. Just what that represents in terms of the actual number still left in the Creek is hard to say: we walk fairly quickly and the fry are not easy to see in the cover.

**May 20, 2006.** We undertook the transplantation of 30,000 chum fry into Douglas Creek this day. In fact, we transplanted 40,000 chum fry into the Creek. The transplant was set up as a Saturday event to allow members of a church group to attend. At the site Reverend White led his group, and us, with this non-denominational blessing:



*"Those who have heard the cry of Creation have also heard the cry of the Creator.*

*They fall in love with all that is good and all that is.*

*May what we do today be a sign of this love.*

*And may this sign be a blessing on these creatures that swim.*

*We claim the holy birthright of all creatures: that in life, and in death, new life will begin again!*

The blessing was particularly apt, both to the situation at hand and as an integrator of the concepts of humanism and ecology, an integration that is—lets face it, folks—the milieu for urban restoration.

The transplant went off without a hitch—a great turnout that included Councillor Susan Brice (representing Mayor Frank Leonard), and Municipal Administrator Tim Woods. Two days later we removed the temporary screens on the upstream siphons in the weir. We had a spate of rain the following day which may have prematurely flushed out some chum fry.

This transplant is part of the ongoing restoration of Douglas Creek and will supplement natural production from the Creek, which was heavily impacted by an oil spill last fall.

Our community partners include Saanich Parks, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Howard English Hatchery, Goldstream Salmon Enhancement Society, Esquimalt Anglers, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Pacific Forestry Centre, Stream of Dreams, Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society and friends of the Park.



