



NEWSLETTER

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

November 2023

Nature Trust of British Columbia Raising Funds for

38.7 ha (95.6 acre) Property on Denman Island

Please visit the Nature Trust Website and donate to help us preserve a beautiful area adjacent to Central Park and the Denman Island Provincial Park.

<https://www.naturetrust.bc.ca/priority-projects>

The Nature Trust Launches Campaign to Protect Imperiled Coastal Rainforest on Denman Island

The Nature Trust of BC rallies to raise \$1M to conserve rare coastal rainforest and at-risk species - including the endangered Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly.

[The Nature Trust of British Columbia](#), one of the province's leading non-profit land conservation organizations, announces that it has the opportunity to purchase 38.7 hectares (95.6 acres) of mature Coastal Douglas-fir forest on Denman Island, within the K'ómoks First Nation traditional territory.

The property is adjacent to Central Park, a Denman Conservancy Association conservation area. Once purchased, this ecologically valuable conservation complex will increase to 187 hectares, increasing connectivity and ensuring that it will never be sold or developed. The conservation area has merchantable timber value and its purchase will ensure that its sensitive rare mature forests and wetlands are protected in perpetuity.

open areas. It also contains a riparian corridor along Beadnell Creek - Denman Island's largest Class A salmon spawning stream. The creek is also home to the of-special-concern provincially Blue-listed Cutthroat Trout. In addition to providing a food source for humans and animals, the salmon life cycle provides vital nutrients to the forest floor and trees.



Photo - Nature Trust of BC

Aerial View looking south-ish

"Coastal rainforests are some of the wettest non-tropical ecosystems on earth. The Denman Island-Coastal Rainforest is an ecological powerhouse and provides tremendous benefits to wildlife, people, and our planet. It is so important that we join together to protect these vital ecosystems and combat climate

change and biodiversity loss." said Dr. Jasper Lament, CEO of The Nature Trust of BC.

This area is within an area of continental significance to waterfowl under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). It is also a regionally significant wetland area within the Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture (PBHJV) program area. Ten bird species listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) have been seen on or near the property - the Band-tailed Pigeon, Evening Grosbeak, Peregrine Falcon, Marbled Murrelet, Barn Swallow, Western Screech Owl, Ancient Murrelet, Great Blue Heron, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Common Nighthawk.

In addition to birds and fish, the conservation area provides designated critical habitat for two Blue-listed bats - the Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis and one endangered butterfly - the Red-listed Taylor's Checkerspot.

The Annual DCA Book Sale

Thank you to all the folks who donated money while they browsed and took home volumes of their favourite reading material. The book sale was the most profitable DCA has held yet. All the readers donated a total of \$3,956 compared to \$3,405 in 2022 and \$2,800 in 2021.

Next year, we will be starting the book sale in the middle of August. This will give us about two weeks with the fabulous DI Farmers Market still open to allow more visitors and islanders to come and browse.



Hope you had a Happy Halloween!

Sue Big Oil

The DCA board recently crafted and sent a letter of support for the Islands Trust's participation in the proposed class action lawsuit against fossil fuel companies.

The class action suit is seeking recompense for the mitigation of the results of climate change. The Islands Trust's unique status may not be included in the general class action suit description. If the Islands Trust does not participate, there is a significant risk that the "class" of plaintiffs will be worded in ways that do not include the Trust's unique legal status. The Trust could be inadvertently excluded from the class.

Funding needs in the future may include:

- Fire prevention strategies including fire monitor contractors, temporary infrastructure to prohibit entry into high-risk areas, signage, community educational/informational outreach.
- Fire rapid response equipment at forested sites, may include cisterns.
- Ecological monitoring to observe and respond to alterations caused by climate change.

Fossil fuel companies have profited from and continue to contribute to climate change. Just 90 entities, mostly fossil fuel companies, are responsible for almost 2/3 of human caused climate change.

Many of those companies:

- were aware in the 1970s that their products would cause the types of impacts Denman Island is experiencing and facing in the future.
- worked to expand their production of oil, gas, and coal; and,
- aggressively attacked climate science and lobbied against any policies which could reduce global dependence on their products.

While everyone has a role to play in fighting climate change and paying for its impacts, right now fossil fuel companies are not taking any responsibility for the harm caused by their products. Suncor, BP, and Shell are actually backing away from previous climate

commitments because they are making too much money selling fossil fuels.

To see the entire letter, please visit the Islands Trust website.

On the Land

I write this during a 'rainfall warning' for our region, which is a stark contrast from the record spring-summer drought and unprecedented wildfire season we just endured. I recently attended a Wildfire and Climate Change Emergency Planning session at the CVRD, bringing together a wide variety of organizations and stakeholders across the valley to discuss the shared vulnerabilities to potential catastrophic wildfire and how a collaborative approach to wildfire resiliency could look. Specific to DCA was discussion around the role conservation organizations, holding large areas of forested land, could have in experimenting with small-scale pilot restoration projects centered on wildfire resiliency and climate change adaptations. We look forward to continuing this conversation over the coming year and hopefully putting some of these ideas into practice on Denman.

We've been busy working on some trailhead improvements on Chickadee Rd and making progress with the new trails and infrastructure in Raven Woods and Wetlands. And as the rains finally lash down and we shift fully into Fall, we'll be ramping up our invasive species removal work across protected areas. Following recommendations from the BCIT student project that took place last year at the north Settlement Lands, we've been trialing invasive Reed canary grass suppression in the Inner Island Nature Reserve, with the help of Nick 'the scythe wizard' Montgomery. Now focus will move back to English holly and Daphne – Top Tip: walking around and pulling out tenacious invasive plants is a great way to stay warm on cold wet mornings *wink*. Also, if you decide to come along and do it as part of a DCA volunteer work bee, there's sometimes cookies involved.

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DCA Receives a \$50,000 Bequest

The Denman Conservancy Association is grateful for the generous gift of \$50,000 from Nina Dobbyn. Nina died in September 2022 at the age of 64. Although she lived and worked in Langley, she had a treasured Denman retreat on Country Place, where she was a delightful neighbour. She visited often and was a familiar smiling face at so many island events. For a number of years, she shepherded her partner, Mike, who had been severely injured in an accident, to Denman to heal amidst the trees. Among her achievements, she was a music teacher and a member of the Delta Concert Band. She explored Denman trails with her cherished Pugs. An ardent supporter of DCA's work to preserve the natural places on Denman, her bequest humbles us and demonstrates her confidence in us. She loved Denman Island. Thank you Nina.



Nina – on the right

Beaver Buzz

The beavers on Denman Island have been active doing their thing.

Some game cameras have been strategically placed in areas where beavers are active. The cameras are motion activated and have an infra-red range so nighttime pictures are possible.

These pictures come from a cam placed on a Conservancy managed property to capture images of our water engineering friends.



Friendly neighbourhood beaver hard at work



We don't know if they are really looking at the camera....



Young fly agaric ready to spread its dome

Update

2024 Garden Tour – June 15 and 16
Rumour has it that there are already a dozen beautiful homes and gardens on the agenda!

Mushrooms Galore

This is turning into a banner year for mushrooms, with huge areas of them showing up almost overnight, it seems.



Photo -Melanie Hewson

These fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) were covering the trail in the Railway Grade Marsh for 30 metres or more.



Last, but not least, a visitor from Toronto, communing with a Denman Island elder