

Regional Parks Committee Annual Report Presented at HIRRA 2008 AGM

Members are: Betty Kennedy, Chair, Brian Kittleson, Judith Elkins, Jeremy Payne, and Gerhard Kozel.

The Parks Management Plan is under review by the Ministry of Environment and B.C. Parks Planning Section, the Regional District, and the local Regional and Provincial Parks Committees.

There were meetings among these organizations and an Open House last June, but there has not been a follow as yet.

The Regional District has not yet signed an agreement for HIRRA and the Parks Committee to manage the Beach Access Parks. A proposal for the Adams Road beach access was presented at a HIRRA meeting and was sent on to RDCS.

A park bench was installed at the small Regional Park on the cliff at the top of Mount Rd. to recognize the Bennett Family.

The large entrance signs at Northwind and Lea Smith will be upgraded to represent the boundary changes to the Park and add trail names in the Crown Land.

New signs have been placed at the intersections of trails, and there are more to come. This is in response to the request from the many users of the Park and Crown Land trails.

The trails are used and enjoyed by many people year round.

The committee toured the Crown Land trails with Frank Ullman from Ministry of Tourism, Brian Allaert from RDCS, and Regional Director Carol Quin to assess the condition of the existing structures to bring them up to provincial standards. Being Crown Land, we are not able to gate the entrances to prevent motorized vehicle access, or even to ask the public not to drive in the area at this time.

The map/brochures were reprinted by the RDCS and have been made available on the Island. This summer we will try placing boxes for brochures on the entrances posts for the convenience of new users.

A post was installed at the end of Strachan Road at the Back 40 entrance and a small parking area has been developed.

The Park and Crown Land trails have suffered fewer blowdowns this winter and everything is in good shape.

The committee has planned a Trailbuilding Workshop for Sunday, April 13 to reroute the Slick Rock Trail to create a safer alternative and prevent more erosion. Jeremy Payne and Yana Pethick have coordinated with HIRRA and RDCS on this exciting venture into training and

education for locals and other mountain biking enthusiasts. Jeremy has placed posters and is available to provide information for the workshop.