

Moorecroft Stewardship Committee Report

April, 2013

Moorecrofters' Update - Fund-raising and community activities: Volunteers have constructed **bird nesting boxes** specifically designed to encourage local birds and to discourage invasive species. These strongly constructed cedar boxes have many important features to keep the birds safe, warm and dry. Bird nesting boxes will be available at the **NALT Wild Food Festival** in Nanaimo on April 21st and at the **Showcase for Nanoose Bay Studio Tour** on May 4th and 5th and are being sold for \$50. They are also available at the Parksville Chamber of Commerce at Craig Bay and at the NALT Native Plant Nursery in Cassidy. They are also available by contacting Lynne at rppsolar@yahoo.com or Jo at jograham5@gmail.com. Money raised will be used for restoration work on Kennedy Lodge. Please support our spring fund-raiser.

At the **Showcase for Nanoose Bay Studio Tour**, May 4 and 5 at Nanoose Place we will have a display table to share information with the public about Moorecroft Park and our park initiatives and to offer our birdhouses for sale. If you are able to volunteer for a two hour shift during this event, please contact Vicki at vlknight@telus.net.

Also, please remember that you can donate your **QF points** to Moorecroft Regional Park.

RDN Update from Margaret Paridaen, Regional Parks Planner: RDN staff has been busy with the building demolition this spring. The construction zone and parking lot are currently closed to the public. Heavy equipment is expected to be gone by April 26th with trails and the parking lot open by April 27th. Current information is available at <http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=2968>.

NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: *Restoration Planting Session on Wednesday, May 1st*: Be a part of the next stage of the journey to return Moorecroft to its natural state. Restoration plantings will be carried out on the sites where buildings have been removed. You are invited to participate in the changes created in the rubble of bygone buildings.

*Glass, garbage, rocks and building materials have been removed and heavy equipment is preparing the building sites for replanting. Some building sites will be covered with soil and seeded with a native grass mix by RDN staff. Others will be planted with native trees, shrubs and perennials. The Operations crew will be organizing the placement and planting of 900 native plants on cabin sites along the trail to the Vesper Point and in the former playground area. The ground is rocky and some areas may be difficult for planting.

*On **Wednesday, May 1st**, volunteers are invited to help to dig, plant and mulch plants (ranging in size from 9 cm pots to 5 gallon pots) under the direction of RDN staff. Volunteers are asked to bring their own planting tools including gloves, shovels, rakes and trowels (marked with their name). Dress appropriately for the weather as the plantings will go ahead rain or shine. Please bring a lawn chair and a water bottle for your own use if desired.

*The RDN will provide a washing-up station and beverages and snacks for the volunteers. There is a washroom at the park.

*While the parking lot will be open again to the public, please consider carpooling.

*The **May 1st** work sessions for volunteers will consist of two two-hour sessions. The first will be from **10:00 – 12:00** and the second session will be from **1:00-3:00**. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact jograham5@gmail.com with your email address, phone number and the work session that you prefer.

The **Kennedy Lodge** assessment report is yet to be received. At this time, no plans are in place for volunteer activities to work on the restoration of the building.

Invasive Plant Removal: Plans are being made with the Coastal Invasive Species Committee for an invasive plant training session/work session in late May or early June. This session would give volunteers the knowledge and skills to identify and to properly remove invasive plants. The invasive inventory of Moorecroft, completed in early 2013, found that invasive plants were not a major problem in most of the park. Volunteers will concentrate on removing smaller invasive plants such as blackberry, broom and thistle at Skipsey Lake and at the edges of the meadow and the park boundaries. Larger holly removal will be organized separately with a contractor/chipper.

Dog Policy: The RDN is developing a brochure to inform park users about the need for dogs to remain on leash at all times in the park. This is for environmental protection in the park and to respect the rights and safety of all visitors.

Donations to Moorecroft Regional Park can be made directly to the **RDN** by cash, cheque or credit card or through **NALT**(www.nalt.bc.ca). Donated funds are deposited into a designated Moorecroft account. People can request a tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more.

RDN by mail: Regional District of Nanaimo, Department of Finance, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2;

RDN by phone to the RDN: [250-390-4111](tel:250-390-4111); [1-877-607-4111](tel:1-877-607-4111);

RDN in person: at the RDN Nanaimo office or the Parksville Parks Office: 2nd Floor, Oceanside Place, 830 West Island Highway, Parksville, BC V9P 2X4

NALT information can be found at www.nalt.bc.ca

Moorecrofter History, Updated and Amended: (Thanks to Gail Adrienne, Executive Director, NALT):

*In 2004, BC Conference of the United Church of Canada recommended the sale of some of their church camps.

*In 2007, the BC Conference made public its plans to sell Moorecroft Camp.

*Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT) was approached by Robyn Cook, a Director of the Moorecroft Camp Society, to help to design and develop a campaign to save Moorecroft. NALT, the Moorecroft Camp Society, Nanoose neighbours and camp supporters formed the Moorecroft Camp Coordinating Committee (MC3). Together with Robyn Cook and Nanoose resident Terry Nishimara, NALT organized an awareness campaign, distributed information brochures about the property and developed a fundraising campaign to aid the anticipated acquisition by the RDN. Terry handled communications between the BC Conference, the Camp Society and MC3.

*In 2010, the Save Moorecroft Committee was formed, scheduling meetings and activities and working with NALT to support the RDN's acquisition of the Moorecroft property.

*In 2010, The RDN acquired Moorecroft Regional Park. The Nature Trust contributed funds towards the purchase price of the property.

*In February, 2013, the NALT Board passed a resolution giving the Moorecroft Stewardship Committee the needed designation to come under NALT's charitable status. NALT issues tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more. Donated funds are deposited into a designated Moorecroft account and are made available to the Moorecrofters for park projects.

NALT's 4th Annual Wild Food Festival and Earth Day Celebration is being held on April 21st at Bowen Park, 500 Bowen Road, downtown Nanaimo from 11:00 to 3:30. This is a great family event with speakers, guided walks and chef-prepared food samples using local wild foods. For information, visit http://www.nalt.bc.ca/web_documents/new_wff_4_poster_4_.pdf. While there, please visit the Moorecrofters' table where we will be sharing information about Moorecroft Park and our stewardship role in the park. We will also be selling our bird nesting boxes to the public.

Please pass this information on to others who may be interested.

The Moorecroft Stewardship Committee

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