

Moorecroft Stewardship Committee Report

Fall, 2013

Moorecroft Stewards' Update - Community Activities:

The Moorecroft History Project

A committee has been recently formed to research and to record the Social History of Miss Moore's Camp and the Moorecroft United Church Camp. The Moorecroft History Project is officially underway with an enthusiastic team and a plan to spread the word and to encourage ex-campers and staff of the camp to post their memories on a Facebook page or via phone or email. Beginning in October, posters will be placed around local communities, news articles will be submitted to local press, and visitors to the Park will be asked about their possible memories.

Later in the year, a Moorecroft website will be developed to record the history, adding new information (as well as quotes and photos from campers, staff, Church officials, etc.) as they are received. Collaborative tools will link the website with the Facebook page in order to maximize the reach to as many people as possible.

By mid 2014, the team plans to mount poster boards with a brief history of Moorecroft Camp at the Park entrance and could, if a mid-year event is planned, produce boards with specific history factoids and interesting personal quotes for that day.

If you or anyone you know attended/worked at the camp - or if you have a suggestion for a location to place a poster - please contact: Cheryl @ [250-821-2082](tel:250-821-2082) or Kelly @ [250-468-9395](tel:250-468-9395).

Submitted by Committee Members: Judy Love-Eastham Kelly Francis Cheryl Beaveridge Kelly Picard

Moorecroft Community Quilt Project



We are creating a community quilt, based on memories of the land and sea around Moorecroft Regional Park.

The finished project will be displayed in the restored Kennedy Lodge.

If you are interested or if you have questions, please contact

Colleen Lucas at [250-468-7465](tel:250-468-7465) or email colleenlucas.lucas@gmail.com.

Create your own design on an 8 1/2 inch square. The finished design needs to be 8 inches with a 1/4 inch seam allowance. Your block can be hand or machine sewn, pieced, appliquéd or embroidered. Please send your completed quilt square to Colleen Lucas at 1426 Marina Way, Nanoose by **November 1st**.

Moorecroft Stewards' Update - Fund-raising:

Financial report for Moorecroft Steering Committee activities:

Raised through nesting box sales: \$ 1186.53 (30 boxes sold at \$50 = \$1500 minus \$313.47 expenses)

Raised through Crabfest 2013 \$ 1429.40

(\$1168.40 from Mauricks donation; \$150 from Robin Kemp earring sales; \$111.00 donation/card sales)

Approx. \$900 raised through additional donations, book and card sales, earring sales, etc.

(Nanoose Days, Brant Festival, NALT wild food festival, Nanaimo Showcase)

Approx. \$2100 in NALT account from NALT's previous Moorecroft fundraising

(minus NALT administrative charges)

Current amount in accounts: \$5390

Bird nesting Boxes

Our **\$50** bird nesting boxes have sold well. Eileen Dombrowski, an original Moorecrofter, exclaimed to me "You know that Moorecroft bird nesting box I bought? I'm so excited because we actually have birds nesting in it. We have 6 or 8 other bird houses around the property and the Moorecroft model is the only one ever to be occupied! I love it."

To date we have sold 31 bird boxes, often bought as gifts for events such as Fathers Day, birthdays etc. Bird box sales to date have brought in \$1550.00. With Christmas coming up you might want to consider these "Cadillacs of bird boxes" (a quote from Gail Adrienne at NALT) as Christmas gifts for bird lovers, nature lovers and park lovers alike.

These bird-attracting nesting boxes are currently available at the **Parkville's Visitors' Centre** at Craig Bay, at the **NALT Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery**, 3145 Frost Road, Cassidy and at the **NALT Stewardship Centre**, #8-140 Wallace Street, Nanaimo. They are also available from Vicki at vlknight@telus.net. Money raised will be used for restoration work on Kennedy Lodge.

We hope to feature these at the **Nanoose Christmas Fair** and **Seedy Saturday**. If you are interested in helping at a table at either of these events please contact Vicki at vlknight@telus.net.

(Dates to be announced as soon as they are confirmed).



The **Crabfest** at Northwest Bay Ranch was a hay wagon full of fun, starting off slowly before noon, then absolutely hopping with over 400 guests throughout the afternoon. Some patrons enjoying the delights of the beer and wine tent were loathe to go home even after the band shut down and the tractor was put to bed for the night! The \$30.00 tickets got you sunshine, entertainment and a plate of food heaped high with coleslaw, corn on the cob, garlic bread and a giant Dungeness crab. Generous slices of homemade pie could be purchased from Deb Reese of Sea Meadows B&B. Michael Reese, a member of the Mid Island Vintage Tractor and Equipment Club provided the hay rides.



Moorecroft supporters supplied 18 volunteers for the event and we thank those who gave so generously of their time. Thanks to the Mauriks, our fundraising table and Jerry Jagers, manager of Thrifty Foods, we took in about \$1,461.00 for the restoration of Kennedy Lodge. Twelve year old Emma Bellovics donated \$20.00 from her pottery sales and Robyn Kemp worked the crowd selling her earrings, bringing in \$150.00 for the cause. What a worthwhile day for us and what a wonderful event to participate in. Those of us working the entry gate were quite frequently told, "Moorecroft is the reason we are here". These were very heartening words, indeed. Everyone is looking forward to next year and Crabfest 2014!

Cabin Windows

The RDN has set aside the windows from the demolished cabins and have offered them to the Moorecroft Steering Committee to create a fundraising project for Moorecroft Park. We are considering inviting local artists to turn the windows - a piece of Moorecroft Camp history - into art pieces inspired by the creativity of the artists involved. Next summer we would display the finished pieces for public viewing and organize an event to sell the art pieces.

If you are interested in looking into possibilities and making plans for this fund-raising project, please contact jograham5@gmail.com



Riso Foods at 7217 Lantzville Road, Lantzville - <http://www.risofoodsinc.com> – has offered to donate their recyclable beverage containers to Moorecroft Regional Park. The containers need to be picked up regularly from the restaurant and cashed in at **Parksville Bottle & Recycling** at 611A Alberni Highway in Parksville. If you are interested in volunteering for this fund-raising opportunity, please contact jograham5@gmail.com.

RDN / Moorecroft Regional Park Update:

Moorecroft Regional Park Information is available at <http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=2463>.

The RDN is current in budget planning for 2014 and is reviewing what projects will be funded for Moorecroft Regional Park. The budget process will not be complete until early 2014, so stay tuned! For a look at the long term priorities for the park, please look at the park management plan on the RDN website.

Kennedy Lodge

The restoration of Kennedy Lodge is beginning to be discussed by RDN staff. We would appreciate input from you to help guide us in our discussions with the RDN.

- What you see as priorities for the restoration of Kennedy Lodge?
- What should be the “look” and design of the Lodge? e.g. historical camp look? Cottage?
- How do you see Kennedy Lodge being used by the community? By yourself?

Please send responses to these or other issues related to plans for the Kennedy Lodge restoration to jograham5@gmail.com.

Park Observations from Guy Monty, Caretaker at Moorecroft, reports that there were many migrant birds in the park in August and September, including a Wandering Tattler, which is a new species for the park. At Vesper Point we spotted a Double-crested Cormorant with a yellow leg band. The bird had been tagged in Oregon, near the mouth of the Columbia River, the preceding year.

Red-legged frogs were seen in very good numbers through the summer, which is encouraging. Several sightings of Northern Alligator Lizards, and many sightings of two species of garter snakes, were also good indicators that conservation measures are helping the park recover.

There was a bear spotted in early summer and rumors of a Cougar sighting in August. More good reasons to keep all pets on leash in the park!

Nature Conservancy of Canada staff visited Moorecroft Regional Park in July in their role as managers of the Conservation Covenant held on 93% of the park. They offered "**sincere congratulations to the RDN Recreation and Parks team and volunteers for making such progress so quickly.**"

The RDN is looking for some great **photos** of Moorecroft Park for the RDN's Regional Guide (min. 1 Mg resolution). They would like images with bluffs, the ocean, big trees and the bays. Photos of people enjoying the park are welcome but permission will be needed from all individuals in the photo. Please contact Margaret Paridaen at MParidaen@rdn.bc.ca for more information.

Fund-raising Reminders:

Donations to Moorecroft Regional Park can be made directly to the **RDN** or through **NALT** by cash, cheque or credit card. Both organizations deposit donations into a designated Moorecroft Park account. A tax receipt can be requested for donations of \$20 or more.

Nanaimo and Area Land Trust: By mail or in person to NALT, #8 140 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, B. C. V9R 581
Phone: 250-714-1990 Further information is available at www.nalt.bc.ca

RDN: By mail to Regional District of Nanaimo, Department of Finance, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2. In person at the RDN Nanaimo office or the Parksville Parks Office: 2nd Floor, Oceanside Place, 830 West Island Highway, Parksville, Phone: 250-390-4111; 1-877-607-4111

On-line donations can be made at **Canada Helps:** <https://www.canadahelps.org/> under the heading [Moorecroft Stewards](#).

Quality Foods' points can be donated to Moorecroft Regional Park at any QF store.

Recyclable bottles, cans and containers brought into **Parksville Bottle & Recycling** can be donated to the **Moorecroft Park** account. Please inform the staff that it is a donation to Moorecroft Park *before* the transaction is rung in and please check that your donated amount is *recorded* on the Moorecroft Park Page. Information about the recycling facility is at <http://www.return-it.ca/locations/parksville-bottle-recycling> .

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

The Moorecroft Stewardship Committee

Vicki Knight vlknight@telus.net
Vivian Haist haistv@shaw.ca

Deirdre Lott deirdre_lott@hotmail.com
Jo Graham jograham5@gmail.com

