

Moorecroft Stewardship Committee Report

March, 2013

A Short History:

*In February, **2009**, the BC Conference of the United Church of Canada announced plans to sell Moorecroft. In the summer of **2010**, Diana Young along with Jill Davies, Carol Bell, Vicki Voros, Deirdre Santesso, Eileen and Theo Dombrowski formed **Save Moorecroft**. They canvassed local residents for support and financial pledges, working towards protecting Moorecroft from development.

* In October **2010**, the RDN voted unanimously to purchase Moorecroft as a Regional Park. Prior to the sale, the United Church of Canada established a **Conservation Covenant**, held by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. In **2011**, **The Nature Trust (TNT)** helped the RDN raise funds towards the purchase. They sponsored "SPLASH" in 2011 and "Tastes of Land and Sea" in 2012. The **Moorecrofters** worked with The Nature Trust to create public awareness of the park and to raise funds.

*Jill Davis continued in a communications' role, maintaining the group email list, sending out informational emails and calling meetings. Jill's hard work has ensured the continuity of the group in the transitional period between the purchase of Moorecroft and the development of the RDN's Management Plan. Jill, we all thank you for your dedication to Moorecroft.

At the present:

*January **2013**, the **RDN's Management Plan for Moorecroft Regional Park** was completed. It was guided by the requirements of the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Conservation Covenant. For further information, go to their website <http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=2463>. To the right, "**Quick Links**" has the Management Plan and its Appendixes. "**Background Information**" has Church Camp history, The Nature Conservancy of Canada Covenant as well as environmental and conservation assessments. Enquiries can be directed to the website or to the RDN office at Oceanside Place, phone 1-888-828-2069, or 248-3252.

*Spring, 2013 is a time of **change** with the park being returned to a more natural state. Building demolition is underway until late April. The main trails and the area around the buildings are closed to the public during this time. The perimeter trails are still open and there is access to Vesper Point.

*The RDN is looking for people to research the **history of Moorecroft Camp** under Miss Moore and under the United Church. The happy memories of younger days at Moorecroft Camp would make a wonderful public record. If you are interested in compiling this information, please contact jograham5@gmail.com.

The Moorecroft Stewardship Committee represents a broad base of the community, focusing its activities on roles of stewardship and support for the park and working in cooperation with the RDN. We have spring two initiatives.

1. **The restoration of Kennedy Lodge**- The building assessment is almost completed and the RDN is examining possible roles for volunteers to work on this project. The RDN expects to have information and plans ready for a meeting with us in **late April**. If you have not yet signed up to help with this project and would like further information, please contact Hugo Sprenger hugo@sprenger.ca - 250. 821.2756 or Bob Rogers rsrogersci@telus.net who are coordinating our project with the RDN. Current Moorecrofter fund-raising activities are in support of the restoration project.

2. **Invasive plant removal**- The interpretation of the park's inventory of invasive plants is nearly completed. That information is expected in **early April**. Once available, the RDN will schedule the training of volunteers and work parties. If you have not yet signed up to help with this and would like further information, please contact Jo Graham jograham5@gmail.com who is coordinating our project with the RDN.

*An on-going role for The Moorecrofters is park advocacy and diplomatic feedback to the RDN staff and politicians when necessary. Your Moorecrofter contact for local input and dialogue with the RDN is Bob Rogers at rsrogersci@telus.net or 250.468.9986.

* **Nanoose Naturalists** have expressed strong support for the stewardship projects planned by The Moorecrofters and for the RDN's recent work to improve paths and to build fences to protect the park's fragile Garry Oak ecosystem. Information about Nanoose Naturalists can be found at <http://nanoosenaturalists.org/home>.

*The **Nanaimo & Area Land Trust** has adopted The Moorecrofters as a committee of **NALT**. They will continue to handle donations for Moorecroft Regional Park and will provide tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more. They also send a letter of thanks to donors and offer a NALT membership. Donated funds are deposited in a designated Moorecroft account and are made available for our park projects as requested. Information about NALT can be found nalt.bc.ca.

Fund-raising and community activities planned for this spring:

***Bird nesting boxes** will be assembled at Lynne Brookes' on Sunday, March 17th from 1:00 – 4:00. Pre-cut cedar pieces with our logo on the front piece are ready to be assembled. Inside the boxes we will place information on mounting, positioning, predator guards, nest box monitoring and provide clean aspen shavings as nesting material. If you are interested in helping, please email Lynne at rppsolar@yahoo.com or call 250.586.4595.

*The **bird nesting boxes** will be sold at the **Brant Festival Community Celebration** from 7:00 PM on March 22 and at the **Brant Festival Art Show** on March 23rd from 9:00 – 3:00. We will provide clear information to the public on using appropriate and safe nesting boxes and bird houses for our local birds. Please visit us there to discuss our partnerships with the RDN, NALT and to see – and buy – a bird nesting box. If you are able to volunteer for a two hour shift on Saturday, March 23rd, please contact Vicki at vlknight@telus.net. For more information on the Brant Festival, go to <http://brantfestival.bc.ca/events>.

*We have booked a table for the **Showcase for Nanoose Bay Studio Tour**, May 4 and 5 at Nanoose Place to continue to share information to the public about our park initiatives and to sell bird nesting boxes. If you are able to volunteer for a two hour shift, please contact Vicki at vlknight@telus.net.

* The **Moorecroft Quilt Project** will be created from images and memories of Moorecroft Regional Park - land or sea, past or present. Quilt pieces can be made in a traditional or non-traditional style, machine or hand sewn, pieced, appliquéd or embroidered. Finished 8 inch blocks (with 1/4 " seam allowance on all sides) will be joined together and hung in Kennedy Lodge. If you are interested in creating a quilt block for this community project, please contact Colleen at collenlucaslucas@gmail.com or call 250.468.7465.

***The Fun-raising event, planned for September at Northwest Bay Ranch, has been cancelled due to insufficient volunteers to organize the event.**

*Theo Dombrowski designed a **logo** which the Moorecrofters have used on information signs, newsletters and on the bird nesting boxes. The logo will be the middle square on the Moorecroft Quilt. Thank you, Theo for the generous gift of your artwork.

* We now have a Moorecrofters' email account. Questions or comments can be sent to moorecroft1@gmail.com. If we have duplicated your address as we transferred email addresses, please let us know. If you **no longer** wish to receive emails from The Moorecrofters, please reply to moorecroft1@gmail.com with the subject line "Please remove from list".

***Thank you** for your interest in our progress and activities. Please pass this information on to others who may be interested.

The Moorecroft Steering Committee

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