



oystercatcher

CLUB CHAT

The sun has finally returned after the bad weather in the fall and winter months. The first salmonberries started to flower in late March, and in our garden the first hummingbird made his appearance on March 23. We could do with warmer temperatures, but on the bright side cooler conditions make the flowers last longer and creates perfect hiking conditions. The change in season also invited more people, members and non-members to come to the Tuesday outings: attendance of twenty or thirty are no exception.

In March, Kees Visser and Simon Rook, accompanied by their better halves, set out to explore the Sunshine Coast as a potential spring trip destination. We found wonderful trails to walk, hike and ramble. On behalf of the Club they struck a deal with the manager of the historic Lund Hotel for a three night stay from May 23 to 26. The trails are very well "groomed" by a group of volunteers who call themselves the BOMB (Bloody Old Men Brigade) squad. Kees and I actually met them in action on the Dinner Rock trail during one of our scouting hikes, while Simon and Heather met other squad members when they joined the Powell River hiking club. It was nice to meet other hiking enthusiasts from different parts of the province and compare notes. Thus, Kees and Simon have lined up some wonderful outings for all levels, as well as a boat trip to Savary Island for some more exploration. Interested members were invited to book directly to the hotel, and in no time most rooms were reserved. At the time of writing, the hotel was fully occupied by members of the Club, but cancellations may have occurred, so if you are still interested in going, call Simon at 537-5180 for more up-to-date information.

Over the past months, we had to say farewell to a couple of very dear and active members: first to John Dickenson and a few weeks later to Paul Ranney. John was a very regular participant on the Tuesday walks as well as the Spring and Fall trips. Paul was the creator and leading force of the rambles. Both are sadly missed, and we extend our condolences to their spouses and family. Of course, donations to the Trans Canada Trail were made in memory of both.

The executive committee met at the end of March to discuss ideas for the Club's future. Several plans came out of this meeting. Revamping the website was one of them and in this context we are looking for someone with web design skills to help Lynn Thompson to achieve this. If you think you could be of help, please con-

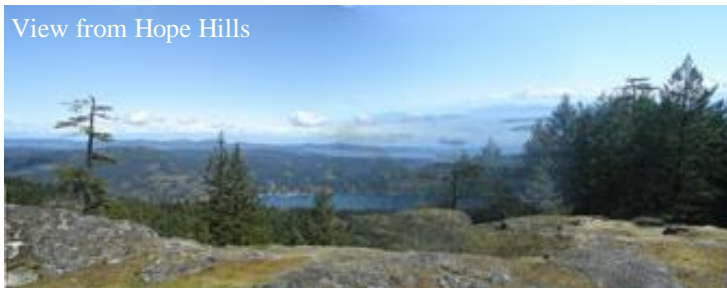
tact Lynn at 537-1814 or any member of the Executive Committee. Another adventure we are embarking on is establishing links to likeminded organizations (see Zeke's contribution on page 3). On page 2 you'll find Gil Schultz' contribution on the annual Christmas bird count. Admittedly, not in timely fashion, as Gil was away when the winter issue of the newsletter was published. Kees Visser continues his series on Salt Spring geology on page 4, and there is more on the Trans Canada Trail on page 5. At the April social, Bevan Wraite spoke about his dream of establishing multi use pathways. His enthusiasm became quite contagious, and the people who were there thought it was a great idea. I had a chance to talk to Bevan a few weeks ago and you'll find the result of this interview on page 6.

On a different note, Owen Benwell, our trusted Trails Coordinator, is leaving us. He and Doreen are going to set up shop in Metchosin sometime in June. We are all sad to see Owen go as he takes with him not only his chainsaw, but also his skill of getting people to work keeping the trails clear, and his wonderful personality and leadership. Owen was the one who persuaded us to join this club when Kees and I moved here four years ago. Owen, you will be missed dearly. We wish you and Doreen all the best at your new home.

And last but not least, the Executive wishes to notify all members that at the Strawberry festival a resolution will be presented to change the off-island mileage compensation. The resolution is printed on page 6 for you to review. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting, so that a decision can be made.

This the last issue of the Oystercatcher before the summer. If you travelling, we wish you a safe trip, and if you are entertaining family or friends during the summer, have fun!

Nieke Visser



View from Hope Hills

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2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The annual Salt Spring Island Christmas Bird Count was held on December 17, 2006. For purposes of the count, Salt Spring Island is divided into twelve zones, each with a coordinator and several counters who go out on the day and collect the data. The zone coordinators then send their results to Gil Schultz who does the final tally for the island. Despite cool and overcast weather conditions, 85 participants turned out and counted 11,560 birds spread among 95 species. This was down a little from the 13,756 birds seen the previous year but up from the 2004 count.

The Christmas bird count was coordinated with the Bird Studies Canada/Audubon Society Christmas Bird count for North America. This event produces useful information on winter bird distributions and population trends for the continent as a whole. For those purposes, Salt Spring Island is divided into north and south circle zones; the north being combined with Galiano Island and the south with Sydney and the Saanich peninsula. The bird counts that fit each of these regions are forwarded to a Bird Studies Canada Circle coordinator who combines data and enters it for the national count. These data can be viewed online by going to either www.audubon.org/bird/cbc or www.bsc-eoc.org/national/cbcmain.html. When the home page comes up, click on current year results and enter "bcgs" in the count circle code to call up the Galiano/north Salt Spring data and "bcss" to call up the Saanich/Sydney/South Salt Spring data.

On Salt Spring Island, dark-eyed juncos topped the list as the most abundant birds followed closely by chestnut-backed chickadees and American robins. Some of the rarer sightings included a western tanager (a very occasional winter visitor), nine Anna hummingbirds and an osprey. Ospreys have been seen in the Christmas bird count in only 5 of the past 19 years. On the national/North American scale, a continued decline in water bird species has become a trend. Of several hundred species being monitored, 44% have been noted to be decreasing in numbers over the last several years.

As coordinator of the SSI count on behalf of the Trail and Nature Club, Gil Schultz hopes to compile a complete list of counters on the island with e-mail addresses (where available) to facilitate communications about the count in future years. With a little help, he also hopes to set up a web site to facilitate access of data from previous counts by interested individuals. Anyone not already involved who would like to participate in

the next Christmas count should contact Gil at 537-9469 or send him an e-mail note at gschultz@saltspring.com. Get your binoculars ready and mark your calendar as the forthcoming count will be held Saturday December 29th, 2007.
Gilbert Schultz

Rufous-sided towhees

Watercolour painting by John James Audubon (1785-1851).

**CALENDAR**

May 17

Social Evening at the United Church, 7:30 pm
Lynn Thompson on the Berg Lake Trail

May 23-26

Spring trip to Lund

June 5

Broom pull in Ruckle Park

June 12

Nature group: Jack Gunn will lead a geology walk in Ruckle Park.

June 19

Strawberry festival in Ruckle Park, starting at noon; parking permits will be issued

Partners Creating Pathways

I have been remiss in not introducing you sooner to the Partners Creating Pathways project for which Island Pathways and your own Trail and Nature Club have partnered to build a pathway along Lower Ganges Road from Wildwood Crescent to Blain Road. I say remiss since the partnering started last autumn. Better late than never for the news.

One of the benefits of the project is to link the 135 homes on Brinkworthy and Sharp Road to shopping, schools, doctors offices, seniors care facilities, the hospital, recreational destinations and other pathways, trails and back roads. It will give all residents, from seniors with walkers to youths on bikes, a safe way to travel through this heavily trafficked area to their destination. Some of you will know that a rough path already exists for part of the route but it is rough and narrow and certainly not suitable for many of the intended users.

A survey has been completed and adequate width is available for a 1.5 meter wide pathway which will be entirely on MOT right-of-way. The pathway is sited away from Lower Ganges Road and only touches it at Atkins Road, where a lack of space prevents the desired separation. If you walk or drive Lower Ganges Road you may see the pathway centerline indicated by flagged stakes and blackberry bushes. The approximately one kilometer pathway will have a compacted gravel surface (possibly asphalt if sufficient funding is found) and will end with a cross walk across Blain and Lower Ganges roads.

The initial construction estimate is \$90,000, much of which it is anticipated will be obtained through grants from various agencies off and on Salt Spring. The grant application process is in full swing. Public requests for pledges will follow. Tax receipts will be available to those interested in donating to the project.

To date the project has involved BC Hydro, MOT, North Salt Spring Water Works, Brinkworthy residents, salmon enhancement, cycling and hedgerow advocates, various contractors, PARC and CRD. All are positive about the concept and indeed grateful that this project will finally fulfill the wishes and objectives of so many Salt Spring residents over the years.

Zeke Blazecka



Mt Tzouhalem

for the fall getaway in mid September, 2007? If you can offer any suggestions, or provide assistance in making this event happen, please let us know as soon as you can. Remember, we now have a handy checklist drawn up to make the organizing very straightforward and clear at each stage. If we can get two or more volunteers to help each other, it should be quite easy to take this on. We hope to hear from some members on this.

Many of you will acknowledge a small but persistent problem that appears once in a while in all three levels of the club. Within the Ramblers and Walkers someone occasionally finds the going a bit more than they can manage comfortably, yet they struggle on, whether on a given trail, or on several over a period of time. This

creates a double challenge: the individual is pressed to keep up with the others: and, the others get held up waiting, to the frustration of many. I know this is a delicate matter. It requires each one of us to show awareness, good judgment, and consideration for others in the group. So, I am asking all members to be sure you are taking on only those walks or rambles, that you feel you can manage without holding up the rest of the group. To help you do this, please carefully read the descriptions in the Driftwood, as they are the leaders' attempts to characterize what you will encounter. Also, if you have any doubts,

please phone the person who will be leading the particular event for clarification or more details. Thanks to everyone for helping to ensure that things go well each week as we hit the trails !

I am sorry to tell those of you who may not have heard yet that Owen Benwell will be leaving Salt Spring Island at the end of May. He and Doreen have decided to try life in Metchosin on Vancouver Island. So we will lose a very able, willing, and good-natured trail maintenance co-ordinator. Owen has done a superb job with his crew of helpers keeping our trails in good condition for our use, spending many hours in the woods clearing up after Mother Nature. Our club will really miss his efforts on our behalf. We send best wishes with Owen and Doreen as they explore new territory ! And we hope to see them back here from time to time. We will need a new trail maintenance person, starting in September, or earlier (see page 8 for more information)

Have a wonderful summer. See you in the fall for a new year out on the trails.

Ron Hall

President's report

We are now looking forward to the Spring Trip in late May to Lund, which is up the coast north of Powell River. Our thanks to the organizers, Simon Rook, Kees Visser, and their spouses for securing this site for our club members to enjoy. I ask the photographers in the group to be sure to capture some of the good scenery and fun moments so the rest of us can view the shots you take, perhaps at one of the fall social evenings. Have a great time everyone !

With annual trips in mind, I wonder, does anyone have an idea

ABOUT RAMBLES AND AMBLES

Rambling has had its ups and downs this spring because the wet weather made some of the hilly trails slippery. Still, we've had a steady turn-out of 15-20 each week. The road walks were very well received, because people didn't need to concentrate so much on what was under foot, and they could walk side by side instead of single-file. Some interest in forming a group of "AMBLERS" has been renewed. The intent of "ambling" would be to explore some of the many roads that are "off the beaten track", and to walk for only about an hour.

Norah Lloyd

SALT SPRING GEOLOGY (2) :
A MAJOR GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON
ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

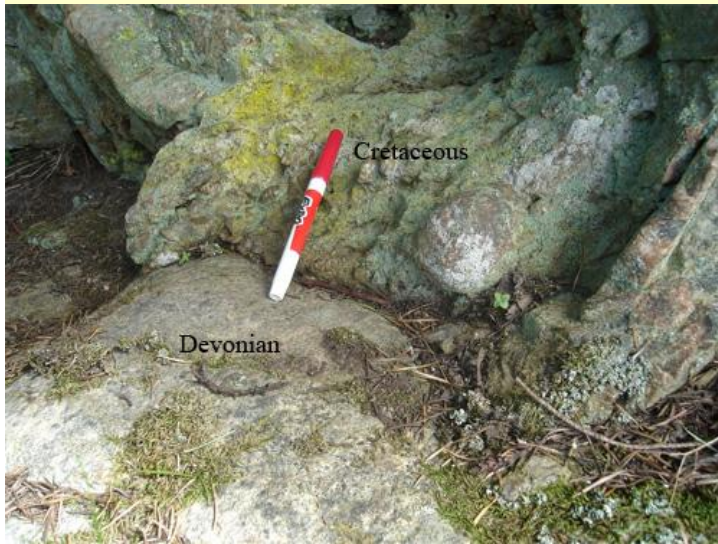


Photo by Kees Visser; location: Meyer Road on private property.

Although not that spectacular to the untrained eye, the above picture bears testimony to a major geological event. The rock at the bottom of the picture is a *granodiorite* dating from the *Devonian* period (360 to 380 million years ago). A *granodiorite* is an igneous (magmatic) intrusive rock of black-greenish colour, similar in origin to a granite but somewhat different in composition. Above this formation you see a conglomeratic sandstone from the *Cretaceous* period (60 to 70 million years ago). This conglomerate is similar to the one you find on Mt. Maxwell and dates from the same time as the sandstones that are everywhere exposed on the north side of the island, belonging to a geological formation called the *Nanaimo Group*.

Geologists are excited about this, because here we see a *hiatus* or gap in time of 300 million years, that you can actually touch. Imagine the thrill! During the missing 300 million years, sediments were either never deposited or have been eroded away. The geological term for this phenomenon is *unconformity*.

Why is there a gap in time? During the Devonian, the intrusive *granodiorite* was pushed up from within the crust through igneous activity into overlaying (older) rocks without reaching the surface. There it crystallized and solidified. During the times following the Devonian, these overlaying rocks were eroded off and, except for a few places, we don't see them anymore on Salt Spring Island. Indeed, much of the *granodiorite* was also eroded away.

All this happened on an ancient archipelago (which geologists call an *island arc*), situated far to the southwest of Salt Spring's present location, in the Pacific Ocean. Geologists call this land *Wrangellia*. This archipelago, not unlike pre-

sent day Indonesia, composed mainly of basic volcanic and intrusive rocks, "drifted" towards the northeast. It finally collided with North America in Early Cretaceous times (100 million years ago). *Wrangellia* was compressed and buckled up and down resulting in mountains and low areas such as valleys or marine basins. Rapid erosion of the higher areas into the valleys and ocean basins built up the *Nanaimo Group* sediments, starting with conglomerates and coarser sands and followed by finer material. A later collision in Early Tertiary (40 million years ago) of another group of islands (called the *Crescent Terrane*, which you can see in Port Renfrew) against *Wrangellia* caused the *Nanaimo* group to be uplifted as well. This explains why both Devonian intrusives and volcanics, and Cretaceous sandstones and conglomerates are found in many outcrops on Salt Spring Island. Relatively recent glaciations (the last one about 20,000 years ago, with more to come in the next 10,000 years!) sculpted further the landscapes we see today.

Kees Visser

HOW TO BE A 'HAPPY WALKER'
EXPECTATIONS 2007

How to take the pain out of our weekly walks and make them a pleasure for all; a few considerations must be taken into account. As the coordinator I strive to vary not only the difficulty level but also the locations. However I need your help in this.

You know where you want to go and how hard you want to work to get there!! You also know the interesting places that I have only dreamed about! Hopefully you can manage 5 to 8 km or there about; stop to smell the roses and have a good chat (always when walking UP hill!!). Hopefully you will wear good foot wear and appropriate clothing and remember to bring a lunch, water and 'trail mix' to get you through to lunch.

ArtSpring at 10:00 am is the main carpooling spot. However an alternate is usually given for convenience. We mostly strive for 'maintained trails' but some road links and an occasional 'scramble' do become necessary. It is impossible to 'stay on the flat' on Salt Spring. Therefore we sometimes climb up and down and try to grade each walk with a word or two in the Driftwood paper. An off island trip, once a month or so, follows much the same pattern except meeting times are different so that we may accommodate 'the ferries'. Please READ the last Driftwood newspaper of the month. These off-island trips may include a 'Pub' lunch. In consideration for you fellow walkers please assess your abilities so each walk is filled with: '*happy walkers*'

Paul Way

More on the Trans Canada Trail



The winter issue of the Oystercatcher featured the Trans Canada Trail donation process and Pavilions. This time, we have a closer look at the trail itself.

The map above depicts the trail when it will be finished. It will wind its way through every province and territory to accommodate five core activities: walking, cycling, horse-back riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The trail will be built on federal or provincial land, abandoned railway lines, private land and existing trails. It is a community-based project, owned and operated by local organizations, national, provincial, or municipal authorities. The TCT will not own or operate any trails, but has identified local organizations in every province and territory which have assumed responsibilities of promoting the cause of the trail in their region. .

The main trunk of the trail will be about 18,000 kilometres when it is finished. About 75% of the trail is built on existing trails or abandoned railway lines, the remaining 25% will be new trails. To fulfill its mission of completing the main trunk, TCT still needs to raise \$32 million dollars.

As mentioned above, the trail is a shared use trail. The magnitude of the trail is such that no one trail using group, in and of itself, is strong enough to support the project. For example,

organized hiking communities are strong enough in Ontario and parts of Western Canada to support the TCT in their provinces or regions but not in the rest of Canada, while cycling communities are very powerful in Quebec, but significantly less elsewhere. By embracing the five core trail using groups, the TCT can tap into a very significant number of people involved. Their collective force represents about 1.5 million volunteers across Canada. These or-



Our own Betty Ball at kilometre 1 of the Trans Canada Trail in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT.

ganizations together with the trail builders are an integral part of the TCT and form the driving force of the entire movement.

There is some controversy on allowing ATV's on the trail. Newfoundland and Labrador had already allowed ATV's on its 900 km "Newfoundland Trailway" when it became part of the TCT. Nova Scotia too had allowed ATV's on trails it had built and now maintains. After much debate, the TCT decided it could not endorse the use of ATV's on the trail, but at the same time, it could not impose a strict ban due to precedents set already some provinces. It would have meant several substantial gaps in the trail. It was therefore agreed that the trail organizations working with TCT would make every effort to route the trail where ATV's are not permitted. But where there are no reasonable alternatives, the TCT would "reluctantly" accept the presence of ATV's on the trail. Fortunately, we live in an region where ATV's are not allowed on the Trail.

One last issue on the TCT in our region: the trestle bridge over the Koksilah river on Vancouver Island which was part of the TCT before it fell in disrepair will be restored at a costs of \$1.6 million, rather than being dismantled for a slightly lesser price tag.

Nieke Visser

Map and information courtesy of Trans Canada Trail

BC NATURE REPORT

Hu' and Ann King, Marjie and I attended the AGM of BC Nature – FBCN at Vernon. We left Salt Spring on the (very) early sailing from Long Harbour on Thursday 3rd May, traveled to Merritt, stopping only for lunch at Bridal Falls east of Chilliwack. I was driving so I was the tour director, and being a grasslands enthusiast, it was only natural that we took the "short cut" through Douglas Lake to get to Vernon. The Douglas Lake Ranch is the largest in Canada, running about 10,000 cattle over about 500,000 acres. Grass and animals looked to be in top shape, the weather was great, and the day was completed by the sight of two big mule deer does.

The AGM was held at the Vernon campus of Okanagan University College. I don't see how the students get anything done, with splendid views of Kalamalka Lake and the surrounding country to distract them from every window.

Friday morning we had a choice of interesting speakers, and in the afternoon there were several field trips. I opted for the Campbell Brown Ecological Reserve, partly because it was billed as "a difficult hike with good boots required". All of us Salt Springers went on that one and it was not so tough. Naturalists are always stopping to look at plants and listen to birds so one gets many chances to rest.

Continued on page 7...

Infectious Enthusiasm

There was a lot of infectious enthusiasm going around at the Club's April social event. Bevan Wraite was the guest speaker, describing his dream of a system of trails and pathways networking Salt Spring. Too difficult? Will never happen on Salt Spring? Too bad you missed it. Want another opportunity to be convinced that perhaps the Trail and Nature Club could do more to promote the idea? I sat down with Bevan in his barbershop (no, I did not get a haircut!) and this is, in a nutshell, what he had to say:

His idea came from the extensive Vancouver pathways running from UBC along the waterfront all the way around False Creek and Stanley Park well into Coal Harbour. These trails are very well used throughout the year. His thoughts for Salt Spring would be a trail system like the spokes of a wheel (only a three or four spokes, mind you) running from Ganges to the three ferry terminals and per-

haps one to Fernwood and beyond. They should be constructed for multi-use purposes where possible, thus reaching a maximum amount of users, residents and tourists alike. The trails will follow the lay of the land rather than the highway and use existing right-of-ways where possible and less traveled roads. For example, starting in Fulford Harbour, the trail would start at Morningside, connect to Menhinick and Bridgeman, and via Beaverpoint Hall to Ruckle Park, Cusheon Cove, Beddis Beach, then via Beddis Road into Ganges. The parcels of non-public land that will be needed, could become available through donations. Now that sounds like a lot to ask. But think about it; can you imagine what it would be like to get out of your home without getting in the car first; to have access to a pathway system on land donated by individual property owners; a pathway system for horses, bikes, walkers, and baby strollers; a pathway system away from the main roads flanked

Continued on page 7...

Resolution to reconsider mileage fares on off island trips

Background: At the executive meeting of September 7, 2005, a motion was passed to increase the mileage compensation from 25¢ to 40¢ per kilometre. The rationale was that with increasing gas prices the Club should adjust its policy. The rate adopted was based on commercial rates as applied by the industry and government agencies of that day. The table below gives an indication of what the effects are of this substantial increase and the effects of a potential reduction to 30¢ per kilometre.

Kilometres (return from Art Spring)	Amount of compensation (3 people paying driver)		Cost of gas (\$1.20/L, 10L for 100km)	Compensation minus actual gas cost	
	(40 ¢/km)	(30¢/km)		(40 ¢/km)	(30¢/km)
30km trip	3x 3 =\$9	3x 2.25 =\$6.75	\$3.60	+\$ 5.40	+\$ 3.15
60km trip	3x 6 =\$18	3x 4.50 =\$13.30	\$7.20	+\$10.80	+\$ 6.10
100km trip	3x 10 =\$30	3x 7.50 =\$22.50	\$12.00	+\$18.00	+\$10.50
400km (e.g. Lund):	3x 40 =\$120	3x 30.00 =\$90	\$48	+\$72.00	+\$32.00
1400km (e.g. Shuswap)	3x 140 =420	3x 105.00 =\$315	\$168	+\$252.00	+\$147.00

In bold is the \$ amount per person

Whereas... Participation on monthly off-island outings have been steadily declining over the past two years.

And whereas... This Club is not a commercial enterprise but rather a club of like minded trail and nature people and should, therefore, not apply commercial standards for mileage compensation.

And whereas... The above table shows excessive amounts of return to the driver at the present policy of 40¢ per kilometre, especially at the larger distances.

And whereas... The above table shows that reduction to 30¢ per kilometre will pay for the gas and extra for wear and tear without excessive amounts being paid to the driver,

Be it resolved that... The mileage compensation for the monthly off-island trips will be adjusted from 40¢ per km to 30¢ per km with immediate effect. The compensation will be calculated for no less than 4 people (driver and 3 passengers), even when there are only 1 or 2 passengers.

Note...

1. The on-island compensation stays as is,
2. For Spring and Fall trips the compensation is to be agreed on by the driver and his/her passengers.

....from page 5 *BC Nature*.

Saturday was taken up with the Director's meeting before lunch and the AGM in the afternoon, so no fun and games for me, but the other three were out roaming around in the Okanagan sunshine.

Resolutions: the one on agricultural self-sufficiency was passed unanimously, as was the one asking the Forest Service to tighten up on the forest companies. The resolution concerning the Brunswick Point farmlands in the Fraser Delta was re-worked to get rid of most of the "whereas" terms while still asking the BC Government to keep the Brunswick Point lands in the ALR.

There was also a resolution from the floor requesting the BC Government to establish a grasslands Provincial Park in the North Okanagan area. I had some trouble with that one, insofar as Crown land grazing tenures might be involved which, if they were eliminated because of the new Provincial Park, would put a rancher out of business. I felt that this would certainly not be in keeping with our previous commitment on agricultural self-sufficiency, so I couldn't vote for it. (Probably destroyed any credibility I might have had as a naturalist!)

The members of the North Okanagan Naturalists Club were admirable hosts and the whole meeting was a very good experience. Too bad that more of our members didn't get to attend. Next time we should be sure to send some keen birders. I can't speak for the other three but I can't hear the little blighters and can only see them if they are at least robin sized and they don't move too fast. Maybe the real truth is that none of us felt like getting up at six o'clock each morning.

On Sunday three of us went with our hosts to hike along the rim rock, scrambling amongst lava boulders about 2000 feet above the valley, looking at distant snowy peaks and observing a family of ravens that have a nest at the top of a colossal column of basalt rock. We left Hu' to attend the annual meeting of the Naturalists Foundation, about which he may tell you if you ask him. After we collected Hu' it was time for the long drive home.

The Fall Meeting will be hosted by Chilliwack Field Naturalists Club from 11th to 14th October and will be located at Harrison Hot Springs, only a couple of hours from the ferry. So I hope more of our club will get to that one. If nothing else appeals, we can soak our bones in the hot springs.

Brian Radford

BROOM PULL AT RUCKLE PARK

The trails volunteers have been extremely busy over the past months: Mount Maxwell and Ruckle Park, particularly, have received a lot of attention over the winter. It is estimated that approximately 125 man hours were spent on these parks last year. However, more work needs to be done as trees are still coming

down in places. On the positive side, I received a letter from Fred King of the K2 Park services commending us for our on-going support in keeping the trails in good condition. In particular, Tony Peterson and Brian Radford were mentioned for their many, many hours of trail maintenance.

In spite of all these efforts over the past months I have to ask again for your assistance. Our much-loved Ruckle Park is in need of a little T.L.C. in the way of another broom-pull. Therefore, we are setting aside the first Tuesday of June (the 5th) for this task. As mentioned elsewhere, the second Tuesday (the 12th) is a "Nature" outing, also in Ruckle, and the third Tuesday (the 19th) our Strawberry Festival, again there. So we are using our park as well as looking after it.

And finally, I have to inform you that Doreen and I are moving to Metchosin some time in June. This, of course, implies that I am resigning from my position as Trails Coordinator.

Owen Benwell

....from page 6 *Infectious Enthusiasm*

by hedges when running along private properties; a pathway system that leads along B&B's, cafés, studios, or any other business catering to the public; a pathway system that we have all wanted for many years? Can you imagine?

A dream yes, but one filled with practical considerations, one based on feedback from his hair studio customers, one based on a can-do attitude.

Bevan is not affiliated with any particular group or organization. He advertises his ideas while waving his scissors above his clientele's crowns. Many got already "infected" by his enthusiasm and have, in principle, agreed to donate a strip of land no more than 12 feet wide (no coercion, honestly!). He also spoke to representatives of PARC and they are assuring him that they would be take care of liability and maintenance. But he cannot do it all by himself. He speaks to organizations like our Club, and hopes to kindle the little fire he started, and get people on his side.

Can this be done? Once people are convinced that such a trail system is good for themselves and their neighbourhoods, a lot can be achieved. There are other communities much smaller than ours that have managed to build trail systems: Ucluelet, Tofino, and the Sunshine Coast trail are just a few. The fundraising and construction would be left to volunteers with the help from government agencies and sponsors. A start is the "Partners Creating Pathways" group, which is in the process of getting enough funding to build a multi-use pathway starting at Wildwood to the RCMP station. It's a start, and could, in the future, be connected to a trail system extending to the North side.

If you are hungry for more information, call Bevan: 537-5071. He will be happy to answer all your questions.

*Zeke Blazicka and Nieke Visser
with contributions from Bevan Wraite.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club features Tuesday outings September through June at three levels of ability. The monthly schedule of outings and events is published in the Driftwood on the last Wednesday of the month. Or visit our website for the schedule: On the fourth Thursday in October, November and February through May, the Club meets at 7:30 pm at the lower hall of the United Church. The Club is affiliated with BC Nature and Nature Canada.

Ramblers enjoy walking without pressure with frequent "time-outs" to take pictures, to examine plants, flowers, stones, fossils, and from time to time sample local restaurants. Members of any level of fitness are welcome. Ramblers start at 10:00 am and usually end by 1:30 pm.



Walkers move at a relaxed pace taking time to smell the roses. They usually try to avoid long steep climbs and will stop to catch their breath along the way. Outings generally cover 8 km or less and end by 2:00pm.



Hikers like long, adventurous and occasionally quite strenuous hikes, and like to gain a bit of altitude. They need strong boots and a good but not excessive level of fitness. Hikes usually start at about 10:00 am and end between 2:30 to 3:30 pm.



Membership Annual dues are \$17 per person. New members must sign a waiver. Send completed membership and waiver forms to the Membership Secretary, PO Box 203, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V9.

Taxi fare: Members are encouraged to car-pool during outings and reimburse the driver as follows:



North of Duke Road: \$2 pp;
South of Duke Road: \$3 pp; Ruckle Park and non-paved roads: \$4 pp.

Off Island trips: \$0.40 per km per vehicle plus ferry costs.

Spring/Fall trips: No club policy.

Moving? Change of email address?

Please let your Membership Director know a.s.a.p.:

Email: sspence@telus.net Tel: 537-2332

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club
PO Box 203, Ganges PO
Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V9
<http://saltspring.gulfislands.com/lthompson/>

Hiking on Vancouver Island

Did you know that you may also hike with other groups in Duncan, Sidney or Victoria? They will gladly receive you, when you show up. Their schedules are in their websites:

The Cowichan Outdoor Group (Duncan):

<http://www.cowichansports.com/outdoorgroup/> They offer frequent hikes around Duncan and in the Cowichan Lake Valley.

The Saanich Free Park Program: <http://www.saanich.ca/>

Victoria Club Tread: <http://www.clubtread.org/>

List of hikes in Victoria area and beyond, with difficulty ratings and some descriptions. Visitors welcome at most club events. Three days notice to event leader required. Quarterly schedule on website includes some "fast paced" walks.

Garden City Wanderers (Victoria)

<http://www.members.shaw.ca/gardencitywanderers/>

This is a Volkssports club. See site for details.

Outdoor Club of Victoria: <http://www.ocv.ca/>

Hike schedule. Hike ratings.

OUR WEBSITE NEEDS UPGRADES

Your executive met recently to determine the three main priorities for our trail and nature club. First on the list was communications. We want to be able to share ideas and concerns with other provincial and national clubs with similar interests to ours. So, we need help from you! If we were to expand our website we would need the services of someone with experience in web design. If this describes you and you would be willing to devote some time to such a project, please contact Lynn Thompson at 5371814, or one of your executive, such as Ron Hall (538 0046) or Zeke Blazicka (635 4782).

Volunteers needed

The following position will become vacant in June:

• Trails Coordinator

Description: Identify problem areas; organize work parties; attend the SS Trail & Nature Club Executive meetings as well as meetings of related organizations such as PARC.

Qualifications: Skill to safely use a chainsaw. Knowledge of the Salt Spring trail system. Good communication and organizational skills. Willingness to communicate with other agencies such as BC Parks managers and PARC.

Experience: Participation in previous trail clearing work parties an asset but not a must.

Remuneration: new experiences, new friends, new places to go, plenty of comic relief (very important!).

For a complete job description call Owen Benwell at 537 9107 or Nieke Visser at 537-5443.

We are still looking for volunteers to organize the 2007 Fall Trip. If you know a nice place in our beautiful province and are willing to take the Club there, please contact Nieke Visser (cnvisser@shaw.ca or 537-5443) for more information on the ins and outs of such an enterprise.