

**Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee  
(August 11, 2017 - BC Parks Office, Miracle Beach)**

**SPPAC Members** - Philip Stone (chair), Darren Saare, Hardolph Wastenays, Catrin Brown, and Bill Phipps

**BC Parks** - Andy Smith and Aaron Miller

**Recorder** - John Milne

**Absent** - Ryan Stuart and Sandra Borton (Sandra will be away for work for some time)

Public - Marlene Smith and Allen Wells from CDMC

**Agenda**

**Introductions**

**Approve Agenda** - Approved as circulated

**Strathcona Update** - Andy

Andy circulated a park update which is appended below these minutes.

Staffing

Vacancies were as high as 30 percent. BC Parks has announced that 30 new positions have been created with Senior Ranger positions being filled throughout the Province. One of these new permanent Senior Ranger positions has been allocated to Black Creek and will start in September. While this position is not specifically for Strathcona, the new Ranger will be assisting the Strathcona area as needed. BC Parks is optimistic that a possible increase in resources will allow for either longer terms for other seasonal rangers and/or other auxiliary positions next summer. Other staff (various positions), are being hired in addition to the Rangers.

Community Liaison Officers are also being hired for each region. These positions will be similar to what used to be called "Extension Officers". The West Coast Region's officer will be based in Parksville and their role will be to assist and/or lead public engagement related work throughout the region.

It was confirmed that the Provincial Government/BC Parks believes that relations with all First Nations is considered important and consultation is mandated. Dealing with title claims are part of this relationship.

### Backcountry Maintenance

Issues that have arisen are being resolved. It was noted that signs in the park indicate the Park is operated by a PO (Park Operator), which was a concern. Signs should read "Park is Maintained By".

The Strathcona PO (Frontcountry and/or Backcountry) can propose projects to Park staff, an example being dust abatement in Buttle Lake campgrounds, modifying roads with sealcoating in some places instead of applying lignosulfonate multi-times annually. Another example is modifying the Karst Creek day-use parking lot for use as a group site (this is an intensive use area so the change of use of this underutilized parking lot has been considered compatible and a trial has been approved. Financially, the PO is paid through fees they collect. In some cases the PO may pay for a project in hopes of making a profit by collecting additional fees, for example creating a second group campsite. Many factors are considered prior to the approval of any proposal, including how many years remain in the PO contract which dictates whether the return on investment is worthwhile. Depending on the project proposal, the PO may assume all financial risk, while at other times a shared risk is negotiated where mutual benefits exist.

### Nyrstar

Nicole Pesonen, Environmental Manager, provided a written update for this meeting. The Myra Falls Mine is re-opening in August. An open house was conducted in June. Full operations may take a few years. A hauling project from the existing mine access portal in the Thelwood (on road up to Jim Mitchell Lake) is being proposed over the next few years. Closing roads (if needed) to the public during hauling could be problematic. There are conditions about guaranteeing access to the public, written in the mine's BC Parks permits. A hauling plan, including public safety will be provided to BC Parks for their approval. Mine material will be hauled to the processing facilities in Myra valley. New drilling is proposed in Myra valley, in order to collect ground water information (for closure plan consideration). A proposal will be sent to BC Parks for their review and approval. The mine update provided by Nyrstar is included in the Strathcona update appended below.

SPPAC wonders if this may be a good time to revisit the desire to relocate the Arnica Lake trailhead. While it could still be considered, nothing can be proposed until the explosive shed is moved (also still being considered for some future time). When this occurs, it would be more feasible to relocate the parking lot and trailhead and could be discussed. Space for parking in this area is currently inadequate. Moving the explosive shed is a complicated process. Andy will invite Nicole to a SPPAC meeting in the future to further discuss this. The mine is still officially for sale but not being aggressively pursued at this time. Operations had to be restarted in order to keep the site in sellable condition. Some people think that the new CEO may be questioning whether or not Nyrstar needs to be sold at all. As Nyrstar has sold other properties elsewhere in the world it may not be so critical to sell Myra Falls operation. This can't be confirmed one way or the other at this time.

## Capital Projects

- Ralph River campsite upgrades have started and will continue through 2018.
- Upgrades for Kwai Lake and Circlet Lake campgrounds will be pursued with an initial assessment this Fall, however, a design plan and construction is not expected until 2018 or 2019.

### The Croteau Lake Group Campground and Yurt

This project is proceeding and Parks have invited the PO to participate to ensure proper maintenance and operation. The shelter design (a four season wooden yurt) is complete and focus now is finalizing the foundation design. The shelter is a 21 foot diameter yurt with a metal roof. The building will be open inside allowing flexibility of use (folding tables and chairs are proposed). It will be reservable. When not booked, the public could use the group site for camping. The yurt will be lockable and not proposed as accommodation. It will be a social gathering place. A grey water system is to be included with a sink inside. There will be a small float/dock on the lake to provide easy access to retrieve washing/drinking water (boil or treatment will be recommended).

The new Battleship Lake dock was damaged by snow last winter. This was repaired and the dock extended further (one additional section) into the lake. Two yellow chairs have been installed on a viewpoint as a start of the "Strathcona Yellow Chair" program. An interpretive sign will be added in 2018. The yellow chair program is an informal initiative adopted from Canada Parks "Red Chair" program, intended to encourage visitors to use them in key areas and hopefully learn something about the area.

### Della Falls

The cable cars need fixing. Allen Wells from CDMC gave Andy a trail report complete with photos. Andy confirmed that an engineering assessment has been done and the cable car's sheaves need replacing. They will be manufactured and installed when available. Hikers are being informed about the cable car problems. The Margaret Creek bridge needs a board replaced as a woman was injured on the bridge earlier. The bridge railing stems (designed to be replaced) are rusted enough that they are falling off and are a safety hazard (Note: the railing has been repaired since this SPPAC meeting). Andy confirmed that if the trail becomes too dangerous, it would have to be closed. The dock where people disembark also needs replacing. Andy confirmed that repairs have been made to the dock which should be adequate until capital funds can be allocated for dock replacement.

### Gold Lake trail (east and possibly west side too)

This trail is now inaccessible. It is unlikely that any people go there anymore.

### Elk River trail

The failing trail section needs an engineered design to address this complex trail section. Warning flagging has been put up to caution hikers. While there is no immediate danger to hikers, the slope the trail crosses could fail at any time. The PO has been tasked to arrange for an engineer to assess the site and develop a plan to secure a trail crossing. Work should be done in 2018.

### Bedwell Lake trail

No upgrades planned at this point. The trail will be repaired when capital funding is available.

### Bedwell River Trail

The Ahousaht First Nation are upgrading the trail as part of their tourism plan. They want to develop the Oinmitis Reserve across the bay from Clayoquot Wilderness Resort, and build a trail through their reserve to avoid CWR's property and then cross the Bedwell River upstream from CWR. Andy hasn't seen these plans yet. Darren thinks the new alternate trail maybe much better than the old one which is overgrown and potentially dangerous. Andy advised that's why the existing trail corridor is being upgraded. Philip suggested perhaps a three way conversation between FOSP, the Ahousaht First Nation and Parks. Marlene updated the CWR situation advising that she had just learned that the owner has died and the resort is up for sale. Marlene spoke about the relocation of the trail to the other side of the valley and why it may be a better route. Philip thinks this may be something to refer to the new Community Liaison Officer. The Ahousaht proposal, including cable cars has met with Parks support. Andy explained BC Parks had already approved the trail upgrade for CWR after much discussion and assessment and would therefore have no reason to deny this option. However, Andy advised that in the best interest of all parties and the park, the Ahousaht should have all information made available to them prior to making any decisions and therefore would support a meeting of Ahousaht, Parks and FOSP to discuss this issue. Andy is meeting with the Ahousaht on Monday and will convey this information and suggest a meeting. Andy also explained that he doesn't know what the Ahousaht timeline is for this project and how far along they are in committing to the current trail upgrade plan. The project advancement may depend on funding. However, in regards to consideration of an alternative trail option, impact assessments and safety assessments would need to be done as well. Previous assessments did not cover any new trail. Timelines are uncertain and it is not known how long the Ahousaht will take to move this forward.

The Ahousaht are following a design plan created by CWR and approved by BC Parks some time ago. Unlike the CWR plan, it does not include the use of horses on the trail.

Maybe it's time to revisit the whole issue and assess both the old and the one routes proposed by FOSP. Infrastructure needs maintenance so a simpler choice has advantages. Andy will talk to the Ahousaht reps and pass on what SPPAC has talked about. They may want to take a look at both routes.

On another topic, Andy will also ask the Ahousaht about a long term plan for a road through the Park. Marlene will email information to Andy. Information gathered by Marlene suggests that a road is proposed through the Moyeha Valley in the Park and is to connect to a west coast reserve.

Allen Wells from CDMC reported on their trail maintenance work along the Forbidden Plateau Traverse Trail. Much brushing has been done and a two log bridge over a creek

built. A log jam at a bridge at McKenzie Meadows was cleared out and a flooding problem resolved. 5 - 6 km of trail were worked on. Some support funding for CDMC was made available from Parks. FMCBC have also given CDMC some funding.

### Comox Glacier Trail

A sign shelter has been proposed to TimberWest at the Comox Glacier/Century Sam Lake trailhead. As the trailhead is on TW land, their approval is required. Some logging is taking place in the area next to the Park. A slide closed one road in the area last winter.

### Heathens and Crest Creek

The court case was completed. Defendants were found guilty of illegal camping and fines of \$1 each were assessed as part of a settlement. BC Parks were the ones that suggested the lower fines, as their intent has only been to have people acknowledge that no camping is allowed in this day-use area and to comply with the regulations. The Heathens did again ask for permission for a new camp this year and it was rejected for the same reasons provided in the past. The Heathens then advised that they would camp at Wolf Mountain instead, beyond the frontcountry zone. RCMP and PO staff continue to monitor the Crest Crag site periodically. The PO has advised that people continually remove the no camping signs which continues to frustrate staff and BC Parks and just adds to the maintenance costs to cover replacement.

SPPAC considered what the future of the Crest Creek climbing area is. Andy supports a common vision to have it continue as a managed climbing area, but the recent and perhaps ongoing conflict has interfered with any positive advancement. Catrin asked how the conflict can be reduced. The volunteer agreement disagreement has also caused conflict. The Park Master Plan calls for the possibility of a campsite to be developed near the Crest Creek climbing area. Andy said Buttle Lake and Driftwood Bay provide adequate and appropriate camping in the area. Camping had been allowed in the past, but only once annually, and only if in conjunction with volunteer work at the Crag area. Camping was never really officially allowed in this day-use area. Some other people may be willing to take over the area's maintenance, but ongoing conflict has kept them away. Having a walk-in camp site would appeal to the users. Buttle campsite does not appeal to most Crest Creek climbers as these people may want something more rustic. Some users are camping just outside the park. Heavy use this year has damaged the area already. A campground could help make this climbing area work. Building a campsite may move things forward. Andy advised that there needs to be local leadership to move this forward. Parks are willing to invest in this area, but are hesitant while conflict and enforcement issues continue. BC Parks would welcome support and direction from those wishing to cooperate. Costs are always an issue for both construction and maintenance. This issue will take a while to resolve.

Maybe a steering committee could be set up to look into this.

Bill pointed out there is nobody with the skills or energy to take over and provide the same level of involvement as the Heathens used to. Andy advised that BC Parks did accept the Heathens 10 year visionary plan for the Crest Creek areas; that was never an

issue. The only restriction was the need to seek pre-approval for any proposed new impacts. Maintenance work of existing trails was never considered to be a problem.

What would be the minimum criteria for a campground in the Crest Creek vicinity? Something needs to get started. There are already some unofficial campsites in the day-use area and three outhouses in this general area. A group could be created to follow up on this. Andy said Parks would support the development of a group to explore options. It could be a SPPAC subcommittee with the PO attending. It was suggested that perhaps the focus should be on the development of a campground as a beginning to help get past the current conflict. Andy needs a group to spearhead this as his workload is too great and it would be better to be led by someone else. SPPAC could possibly do this. There is a need for a walk-in campground somewhere. The area is heavily used. There are areas outside the park that could be used as well. Andy advised of Crown land just outside the park boundary that should also be explored as an option as people are already camping there. Being outside the park could potentially offer fewer restrictions. Bill volunteered to lead such a group. Darren and Catlin are also willing to work on a campsite plan as a first step. Such a campsite should be minimal with the lowest fee possible. Some capital “may” be available in the future depending on what is proposed and where, but the ongoing maintenance costs could be a problem.

There was a suggestion of engaging in a conflict resolution process to help resolve the issues. The main source of conflict is about control rather than clauses in the volunteer agreement. Andy advised that many conflict resolution strategies have already been tried. No resolution is possible unless there is a willingness to resolve things.

Parks staff are willing to explore the options and follow up on this idea. Andy will talk to the PO to see if they have any thoughts. It could be part of a Service Plus arrangement.

Action - SPPAC will make a recommendation to Don Cadden using points from this discussion.

Key points will be minimal services, a walk in camp site, increasing pressure, and meeting the needs of users. Philip will craft the letter and circulate to SPPAC for comment.

#### Wood Mountain

The clean-up of old facilities is proceeding as planned. The Parks land portion is only part of the agreement as some of the affected area is on Crown land which is handled separately by another ministry. The site clean-up will include the testing of the previous contaminated soil bio-cells. An environmental engineer has been hired to assess the project and provide recommendations to guide the clean-up efforts.

## **On Going Topics**

### **Annual Backcountry User Pass**

Philip circulated the reply from Don Cadden in response to his letter.

### **Trail and Other Infrastructure Deterioration - Bill**

Bill displayed a large bag of flagging tape which he presented to the meeting. This represents this year's haul that he has collected in the Park. Flagging tape use is not supported in the park and if it is required for safety, it should always be removed on the way back out.

### **Park User Education**

Fires in the park are still a problem. What is involved in ticketing someone? A great deal of evidence is required unless caught in the act by a Ranger. Who has the authority? A PO can evict someone, but not ticket them. Lots of background information must be collected in order to lay a charge. Photos of helicopters illegally landing in the Park were shown but none with any identification numbers. If helicopter photos can be taken showing the identification numbers, these can be forwarded to Andy for follow-up. Natural Resource Officers can issue tickets for infractions as well as Park Rangers. Parks staff can sometimes request help from other government departments who have better resources to deal with a problem.

More funding is needed to educate the public.

Aaron would like information about the access points to the park used by snowmobiles. Andy has this and will pass it on. In the past, Andy has gone to various access points to inform potential trespassers. Maybe a big map on Strathcona Parkway showing park boundaries would help educate people at the staging area.

### **SPPAC Recruitment**

Recruitment for new members is ongoing. It would be desirable to have more female representation on SPPAC to help maintain diversity of opinions.

## **New Business**

### **Government's Commitment to BC Parks, relationship with users and volunteers**

Philip spoke and referred to his letter sent to the Premier in 2010 about renewing its commitment to the park system. This letter made several recommendations. The Minister's reply was non committal and didn't reply to any of SPPAC's recommendations. Philip would like to resubmit this letter to the new Government and hope for a better response. SPPAC could also look at the project list for the Park which has been around for a long time and make recommendations about priorities. Another recommendation could be for other Public Advisory Committees to be created for other parks in the Province.

Is there something similar to the Canada 150 Federal program that can be done for BC Parks?

Philip will write a letter revisiting this action. The goal is to achieve something by the spring budget.

Aaron spoke about additional funding for BC Parks allocated in the last Liberal budget after the election. However, no one can predict if or when additional funding will be made available to BC Parks.

Don Cadden has been invited to the next SPPAC meeting.

**Itemizing a medium term vision for investment in Strathcona Park**

This is to be done in the next couple of meetings.

**Next Meeting**

TBA



**Strathcona Update for SPPAC**  
**August 11, 2017 (BC Parks, Black Creek Office)**

**Strathcona Staffing**

Seasonal staff – A total of 30 positions have been posted and competed for throughout the Province and has resulted in some regional changes. Senior Ranger, Alec Patterson returned May 8<sup>th</sup> and was originally scheduled to work until October 21, 2017, however, Alec won a full time permanent position as Senior Ranger for the Clayoquot Area and will be moving to Tofino on August 21, 2017. As a result, the current Von Donop Senior Ranger, Jamie Godfrey, also based in Black Creek, will move into the Strathcona Senior Ranger position. Having both Jamie and Alec here at the same time, is allowing for a good transition. Additionally we had a new Ranger, Harry Reddin, start June 5<sup>th</sup> as a replacement for Jesse Bevan who did not return this season. Harry's term ends at the beginning of September when he returns to Vancouver Island University.

**1) Backcountry Maintenance Contract**

43K Wilderness Solutions (43K) are continuing as the PO in their third season of a ten year contract.

**2) Frontcountry Maintenance Contract**

43K have been settling in as the new Frontcountry PO in the Buttle Lake corridor area replacing the previous operator, RLC Park Services. The new contract will be for another ten years. 43K has been proposing some new partnership projects with BC Parks, including the potential sealcoating of both Ralph River and Buttle Lake campgrounds. This eliminates the need for using lignosulfonate dust abatement on roads. Other partnership proposals are a new group site through conversion of a portion of the large underutilized Karst Creek parking lot area, and the conversion of the propane generator electrical system at Buttle Lake HQ to a Solar/Battery operation.

**3) Nyrstar (information provided by Nicole Pesonen)**

The mine is currently preparing for opening in August. Update below provided by Nicole Pesonen, Environmental Advisor:

- Myra Falls hosted an open house in June to discuss the restart with the public.
- Nyrstar Board of Directors voted to accept the conditions on the restart as completed and a full restart is now planned. Full ramp up will take a few years.
- Myra Falls is putting together a permit application for surface haul & surface stockpile storage to accommodate the restart plan.
  - Jim Mitchell Road – Haul from Price 13 for ore & waste will be applied for as a back-up alternative to underground hauling if unexpected delays occur in the rehabilitation work.
    - Maximum duration of use two years, small volumes.
    - Standard highway dump trucks would be used.
    - Haul will be during low-use times for Park Users (night, weekdays).

- Flaggers would be used during hauls.
- Cliff wall in areas with poor visibility & narrow corner may need to be blasted to widen these areas slightly.
- Culvert replacement in areas that frequently wash out would be required.
- Areas adjacent to Price 13 portal would be flattened (large dip that causes visibility issues) and a protective barrier added to keep public & mine vehicles from interacting in the area.
- Protective barriers (concrete) added in the area adjacent to the wetland would be added for safety.
- Lynx- Arnica Road – Haul from Lynx 6 to Surface stockpile.
  - Widening and addition of safety features such as run-away lanes and velocity arrestors.
  - Three years maximum duration of surface haul.
  - Stockpile would be located near the mill and would be used to store materials mined before the mill restarts.
- Move the powerhouse and the fuel island to new locations on site (letter and drawings to be provided shortly).

Myra Falls will also submit an application for drilling access and drilling in areas for a pre-feasibility geotechnical assessment of the cross valley embankment for the wetland solution.

#### **4) Capital Projects**

The multi-year upgrade of the Ralph River Campground has been started. New toilets have been installed and site work/site alignment is ongoing. The transition to the new Government has delayed budget confirmations therefore; it was not practical to plan any large projects. However the Capital Program has committed to the following two projects:

- Assessment and design work for Circlet Lake and Kwai Lake campgrounds (planning/design work only), and
- Support funding for the Croteau Group site project.

#### **5) Croteau Lake Group Site**

While the new shelter (permanent wooden yurt) design has been finalized, we are currently working with an engineer to confirm the foundation plan. Once in place, we should finally be in a position to implement construction. It is hoped that construction will begin in mid-September with completion targeted for the end of October. Although most funds are in place, including the \$8000 donation from SPPAC, Capital Funds from BC Parks, a grant from the Island Coastal Economic Trust, Nyrstar and private donations, we continue to seek additional sponsors to cover rising design costs.

#### **6) Battleship Lake Accessibility Project**

Winter damage caused a delay with the installation of the docks this spring and while the most sections were set in place by mid-July, the final new larger end piece was only installed on August 10<sup>th</sup>. New signage (map sign) has been installed and a new

interpretation sign with the “Yellow Chair” platform will be installed as soon as possible. The new yellow Adirondack chairs were installed in July and have been well received.

## 7) **Backcountry**

### Della Falls

We were able to secure funds to have our local volunteer make some necessary repairs to the existing dock at the Great Central Lake trailhead. This is a temporary repair but adequate for a few years until we can budget for a new dock replacement.

We have received numerous complaints this season regarding the poor operation of the cable car (very difficult to pull across). We have responded by having an engineer check it July 22/23. He has provided a recommendation that we will be acting on (replacing sheaves as well as potentially replacing and loosening the pull rope). We will also be addressing a loose railing issue on one of the bridges. This will be done as soon as everything has been planned and the new sheaves have been manufactured (approximately 2-3 weeks). We have updated the Parks website trail conditions report and asked the water taxi operator to advise visitors of the problem and what we are doing about it.

### Circlet Lake

The proposed assessment of this campground along with Kwai Lake has now been scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>. It is our intention to come to an agreement on site as to what should be done, and then have a design plan developed this year for potential upgrade (construction next year).

### Gold Lake Trail

No change since last update. Logging road closures have now restricted access to this area. We will try to access if time permits.

### Elk River Trail

The upgrade to the Butterwort Bridge was completed in June/July. Also, the section of trail on the side slope where the retaining wall is failing has been assessed by Park staff and we have decided that the solution is complex enough to hire an engineer to further assess and provide a design plan. This will dictate when the repair project can take place however; we suspect it won't be done until 2018. This section of trail has been flagged to alert hikers and will continue to be monitored. Should current conditions change for the worst, we would be forced to consider temporarily closing the trail.

### Bedwell Lakes Trail

No major upgrades are planned until adequate Capital funds are procured. Safety issues will be addressed as needed (temporary or complete repair).

### Bedwell River Trail

The Ahousaht First Nation continue to make plans for the upgrade of this trail. It is one key component of their tourism strategy which includes the development of their

IR across from the Clayoquot Wilderness Resort. It is their hope to encourage visitors to spend time at the newly developed IR by day tripping from Tofino, spending a night or two, or hiking to or from Bedwell Lakes. Unfortunately, there still appears to be an effort to encourage groups to follow an unauthorized second trail up this valley. BC Parks and SPPAC have confirmed in the past that the development of a second trail is not supported. It would create additional impacts where none is needed and potentially displace wildlife routines. To consider a second trail, an impact assessment would need to be completed, a safety assessment done and consultation with the Ahousaht First Nation to seek their support. Unless a trail upgrade is determined by the Ahousaht First Nation to be impractical, there is no point in considering more impacts brought on by a second trail.

#### The Comox District Mountaineering Club

This group continues to help BC Parks maintain some of the less popular, less priority areas of the Strathcona. The CDMC is again assisting BC Parks in 2017 volunteering to maintenance work on some of the less popular trails, however their efforts have been hampered due to bush work restrictions associated with fire hazard.

#### Comox Glacier

While TimberWest has been allowing access on weekends and/or when there is no logging operation happening, the road has just recently been closed due to extreme fire hazard. BC Parks requested TimberWest allow the erection of a sign shelter at or near the trailhead to provide a map, user ethics, notices and general information. We have suggested that it would be a good opportunity for TimberWest to be recognized as the land owners in the trailhead area and provide an opportunity to have their own information posted as well. BC Parks has been advised that the request will be discussed at the TimberWest Director's meeting in September.

#### Yellow Chair Program

The chairs have been installed at Battleship Lake and been used constantly. Signage will be added at the chair site to further enhance the visitor experience with information about Battleship Lake, including a photo of the lake from above which is the only way to really appreciate the name.

### **8) Heathens and Crest Creek Climbing Area**

The ticket disputes were heard in court in July. BC Parks offered to reduce the fines to \$1 if the defendants pleaded guilty to one count each of illegal camping and agreed not to do this again. Upon agreement the case was finalized. Since that time, the Heathens requested to have a camp again at Crest Creek which was obviously refused immediately. The Heathens then advised BC Parks that they would encourage many people to camp in the backcountry area in the vicinity of Wolf Mountain (close to Crest Creek but outside the frontcountry area) and suggesting that there would be many impacts. BC Parks can't confirm or deny what may have taken place as we have had little time to check up on any potential camp and associated impacts in the backcountry. The Crest Creek area is being monitored by our Park Operator with random checks by Gold River RCMP to ensure no further camping is taking place in

this area. While no camping has been reported, all No Camping signs have been consistently removed/stolen within about two weeks of replacing them. This has happened several times and continues to cost BC Parks for replacement each time in sign fabrication and installation.

**9) Wood Mountain Provincial Park** *(Always applicable due to its historic role as an access to Strathcona)*

No changes. Treaty negotiations are still progressing with Komox First Nation. This land has been identified as potential Treaty Settlement Lands. BC Parks continues to advise that any agreement must address continued access into Strathcona Park through or around these lands.

The Community clean-up effort being led by Edwin Grieve, Area Director for the Comox-Strathcona Regional District has continued to progress with the development of a new formal registered group, the “Forbidden Plateau Reclamation Society.” BC Parks is finalizing a multi-year contract (\$1) with the Society to allow them to remove foundations and debris from the site if and when their time and schedules permit. BC Parks offered the Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resources an opportunity to be included in the same contract to enable work on the Crown Land portion (starts near top of main chair lift and includes everything to the Strathcona Park Boundary). However, they felt more comfortable following their own Ministry protocols for authorization.