

TRAILS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR DIRA.

April 2015.

Last year the Cross Island Trail saw a big new section of trail constructed that extended the trail from the top of the Big Hill by the Graffiti Wall along Denman Road as far as Swan Road. Much of the trail has been kept back from the road making for a very pleasant trail to walk and far safer than walking the edge of the road; while in places this was not possible trail sections next to the road were kept to a minimum. The Trails Committee was pleased to have worked with Karin Albert of the CVRD and the committee is generally pleased with the results. As you may have noticed, additional work has been done where the original contractor left a few deficits; these have been corrected as well as a few extras where the planned trail needed some up-grading. While at this time no new monies have been procured for additional trail construction this year there is a small amount of money left over from last year's grant to carry out an engineer's report on the feasibility of constructing the trail up the Big Hill to link the lower and upper sections of the trails.

The Trails Committee became mechanised last year with the purchase of a Stihl hedge trimmer and brush cutter. These tools have greatly enhanced our ability to clear trails of overgrowing vegetation but are only an aid to our work. On a typical trail clearing outing we bring along not only the hedge trimmer and brush cutter but loppers, rakes, axes and even chainsaws; plus the mandatory cell phone for emergencies as well as a comprehensive first aid kit; quite the load. The Trails Committee elected to clear two trails in the Boyle Point Park comprising just under 4-kilometers in length, these are the Boyle Point Trail that starts from the main Park entrance at the southern end of East Road and the Main Trail that starts near the "Tree in the Road" and links up with the Boyle Point Trail near its southern end. Both of these trails are well used by Islanders and visitors alike and can now be walked in damp weather without getting wet from brushing against the foliage. Since June 2014 to December we have put in collectively 72-hours of trail clearing work.

The average age of our committee of very dedicated people is 70-years and we feel the community work we do together helps keep us young, even if this is an illusion we like it that way. The Trails Committee is always looking for more "young at heart" members to come and join us, interested?

To keep ourselves in shape the committee organises hikes to interesting local areas. Places we have hiked include Forbidden Plateau and Mt. Becher as well as several places in Paradise Meadows including the Cruikshank Canyon area.

I would once again like to thank all members of the Trails Committee for their dedication toward contributing to making our small Island a better place to walk and enjoy our Parks and Trails. These volunteers are:

Anne Page, Derek Hood, Frank Frketich, Graeme Johnson, Howard Stewart, Margie Gang, Michael Gorman, Ralph McCuaig and Tim Fuchs. Thank you for all your work with the Trails Committee.

Sincerely. Allan Danks, Chair-person.