

## **STRATHCONA PARK PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**(April 13, 2018 – BC Parks Office, Miracle Beach)**

**SPPAC MEMBERS:** Philip Stone (Chair), Darren Saare, Hardolph Wasteneys, Ryan Stuart, Catrin Brown, Bill Phipps, Jennifer Pass.

Absent: Sandra Borton.

**BC Parks:** Andy Smith, Don Cadden, Craig Meding, Aaron Miller.

Public: Ken Rodonets, Jack Welsh, Marlene Smith, Wendy, Peter LaValley, Patrick Littlejohn, Juanita & Allen Wells (CDMC).

### **AGENDA**

#### **Introductions**

**Approve Agenda** - The agenda was approved as circulated.

**Strathcona Update** - Andy Smith

The circulated update will be appended below these minutes.

#### General

-New sign prototypes – Andy Smith, Strathcona Area Supervisor, showed committee a new Flex Post sign that he will be experimenting with on Forbidden Plateau. Andy will install three (3) this season to see how they withstand the weather over the four (4) seasons. If successful, this type of sign could replace all km marker posts and signs at a much reduced cost for installation and long term maintenance.

-Craig Meding was introduced as the new West Coast Region, Community Liaison Officer. Craig's position focusses on community engagement issues and will be assisting Area Supervisors to address public/volunteer concerns as well as helping to develop and implement identified projects or initiatives.

-A Province wide Student Ranger program is being implemented this season throughout the regions in BC Parks. There will be two (2) crews assigned to Vancouver Island with one (1) stationed in Goldstream Park while the north island crew will be based out of Black Creek. Each crew will have one lead-hand supervising a crew of four (4). The north island crew starts in mid-May and will work on projects in various areas. Project themes are conservation, indigenous relations, and infrastructure. The program is aiming for thirty percent of the crew to be of indigenous origin.

-Nyrstar has a new acting GM, Mr. Glenn Smith. Reopening the mine is a complex process and is taking some time with upgrading projects. Please refer to Strathcona update and the Nyrstar update appended to the end of these minutes.

There was a question about stock piling ore for production purposes. This is still being planned and is regulated by mines not Parks. A point was brought up about closure plans and how there is no apparent money for dealing with any environmental problem outside of the mine footprint (not clear on whether this statement is referring to impacts to adjacent Park lands but originating from the existing mine's operating area). The Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy need to clarify and confirm how such situations will be addressed rather than working independently. Andy wants future closure plans to include all mine areas including those outside of the "active" mine footprint (but still within the mine's operating area).

It is the understanding of BC Parks that the Nyrstar mine is no longer for sale. Nyrstar sold some other operations elsewhere which gave them the capital they were looking for.

**Capital projects** – See Strathcona Update.

**Croteau Lake Group Site** - See Strathcona Update.

**Della Falls** - See Strathcona Update This area is problematic for fire pits as well as other issues and is hard to enforce because of its isolation. There was a suggestion that it could be tied in with the water taxi Park Use Permit with a surcharge and information made available. Aaron clarified that BC Parks could not require the Permittee to do this in exchange or as part of their Permit; it would have to be voluntary. Most of the water taxi operation takes place outside of the park and only drops visitors at the dock. The water taxi operator is quite helpful and relays park concerns from the public to Parks staff. There is no Park Operator in that area and no fees are currently charged. The water taxi is already expensive so a bit more being charged may or may not be possible. Regardless, someone would have to collect fees and be paid to do so. It was suggested a donation box could be used. A discussion about various options ensued. Another suggestion was to collect fees online. Andy advised that the Hupacasath First Nation is interested in this area for tourism opportunities and therefore could be approached to discuss potential stewardship of the trail. Della Falls is popular with European visitors. A per person landing fee is already being charged as part of the water taxi Park Use Permit. It was suggested that the presence of fire pits at the trail head may be misleading and encourage fires elsewhere on the trail. It was agreed that removing them would be a good idea. Andy will try to address this during maintenance work this season. It was noted that high use in the area is causing people to camp all over the place.

**Circlet and Kwai Lake** - See Strathcona Update

**Gold Lake** - See Strathcona Update.

**Elk River Trail** - See Strathcona Update.

**Bedwell Lake Trail** - See Strathcona Update.

**Ranger Cabin near Hairtrigger Lake**- Used by the Park Operator in the summer. The water system was upgraded. The idea of having the cabin available in winter for a warming hut up was brought up, but there are no resources available for this at this time and no group since the Alpine Club of Canada has come forward with any new proposal.

**Bedwell River Trail** - Andy asked the Ahousaht First Nation if they would like to meet with BC Parks and the Friends of Strathcona Park to discuss their trail improvement project and also learn more about the FSP. They confirmed that they are willing to do so, but at a later date when their plans move ahead. Currently they have no immediate plans to upgrade the trail as they are focussing on their reserve near the mouth of the Bedwell River and on creating a tourism plan before considering what they want to do with the trail.

**CDMC** - See Strathcona Update.

**Glacier Trail** - See Strathcona Update.

**Crest Creek Climbing Area & West Boundary Camping Proposal** - See Strathcona Update. SPPAC discussed the need for a campsite in this area. There is a possibility to create a recreation campsite outside the Park adjacent to the park boundary. A previous area associated with the Heber diversion was identified and the Recreation and Trails Division of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (FLNRORD) has confirmed their interest in working with stakeholders and BC Parks to develop a site for recreational camping. This area is already impacted and is large enough to accommodate the use. If there is support, FLNRORD is prepared to start discussions as a lead up to planning and design. Bill Phipps is willing to be the liaison for to reach out to stakeholders. It was noted that camping already occurs in this area. A comment was made that this is not the same as a walk-in site close to the Crest Creek Crag which is what the Master Plan (MP) calls for. Andy advised that the MP only implied exploring opportunities. The 2001 MP Amendment states “Investigate the opportunity to develop a vehicle-accessed group campsite for climbers near Crest Lake, subject to environmental impact assessment and First Nation consultation”. An extensive discussion took place as to where such a campsite could go. There was consensus that this idea is worth pursuing and the broader community should be included.

**Action:** SPPAC members will forward names of people who might like to be involved to Andy. There still may be a need for a walk-in site closer to the crags in the longer term and the possibility shouldn't be ruled out. It was felt that the FLNRORD recreation site should be designed to discourage RV traffic and encourage the climbing community. The consensus was to pursue the campsite outside the park.

**BC Hydro** - See Strathcona Update.

**Wood Mountain** - See Strathcona Update.

### **Ongoing Topics**

#### **Annual Backcountry User Pass**

Don Cadden responded to SPPAC's letter. Parks previously considered a Parks membership pass on a loyalty type system, but didn't pursue it. Parks is reviewing fee structures in general. The current government doesn't want more fees imposed on the public. An annual pass is being considered as part of the fee review. Parks Canada has a variety of annual passes as do other countries such as the United States and New Zealand. No other Provincial Park systems in Canada practice this. Discounts to frontcountry parks are not being considered. Don will report back to SPPAC on this proposal. Annual passes encourage users to bond with the Parks system. Family rates are also being considered.

#### **Snowmobile Issue, Recent Enforcement, Signage, etc.**

It is difficult to enforce snowmobile regulations, making it more effective to be proactive. Parks have been talking to the President of the Mid-Island Snowmobile Club & BC Snowmobile Association who are concerned about their image. Andy asked if there are members who might be willing to assist BC Parks through Park boundary patrols, disseminating information, putting up signs and helping to educate other snowmobilers. This is being considered.

A large sign outside the Park at the Strathcona Parkway snowmobile staging area is being considered but would involve approval from the Ministry of Highways and perhaps approval from TimberWest (TW) as snowmobilers need to cross TW lands to reach the Park boundary. SPPAC supports this proactive approach. Maybe a partnership with TimberWest, Mount Washington, Highways, and RCMP could be created. TW might be the best choice because of its positive working relationship with BC Parks. Andy advised that it “may” be possible to have the sign posts donated and installed by BC Hydro which would then lower the cost of a large sign to a reasonable amount. TW has a stake in snowmobilers behaving properly on their land. Possibilities may also exist with the snowmobile dealers and getting them to inform their customers. This problem is wider than just Strathcona Park. It was suggested to work on the corporate responsibility angle and to play up on the safety issue.

Andy advised that snowmobilers have also asked about amending the MP to allow snowmobiles in one or two strategic locations. Andy advised that this would be a major

issue and require much consultation as part of the process. Having winter Rangers would also help to address this issue.

### **Government's Commitment to BC Parks**

Response to Phil's SPPAC letter from the Environment Minister was positive, (see letter is appended below).

**Action:** Phillip will put it on the Strathcona Park Public Forum.

### **SPPAC Committee Structure, Recruitment, Format, etc.**

Is the format of SPPAC meetings working? Should things be changed? Are two (2) meetings per year enough? Would fewer be better?

Issues may dictate meetings. There's a lot of work for staff preparing for and following up on meetings. A suggestion was made about having the mission statement at the top of every agenda. It may also help to put anticipated discussion times next to agenda items.

**Action:** Jennifer Pass will prepare a mission statement for agendas.

SPPAC is a good sounding board for Parks staff. Networking through SPPAC members to others is also beneficial.

It was suggested action points be put in the minutes.

Another suggestion was to meet as needed but at least twice a year with a standard maximum of four (4). If issues arose, more meetings could be added. It was also suggested that an email note to SPPAC about various agenda items would be good for keeping people current and providing a heads up about agenda topics so people could research and do some networking. Members should give Parks staff notice of things they see coming up. Those things could then be recorded and filed with upcoming meeting information so that they are not forgotten.

Recruitment should be on an ongoing basis. There could be more members and SPPAC should encourage other people to join. Terms of Reference used to call for members to come from people with special skills.

SPPAC needs to connect more with the public. Some suggestions to get feedback and give information out include: taking part in a volunteer day, going to other group meetings, and having a booth at various functions (e.g. fall fair).

Phillip sends out Facebook postings so many know about meetings. Question was asked about moving the meeting location around. Andy advised that in the past SPPAC

travelled to Rathrevor Beach and even Courtenay, but evolved to Black Creek due to convenience for many SPPAC members as well as reduced costs and meeting preparation logistics. Maybe some future meetings could be in a different location.

A suggestion was made to hold a meeting in Courtenay so more members of the public could attend. A reminder was made that while SPPAC meetings are open to the public, they aren't public participation meetings (other than a question or comment period at end of meeting). As it is now, SPPAC polls the public and brings their feedback to the table allowing efficient discussion in a focused way. As a compromise or improvement, Don Cadden suggested that perhaps one (1) meeting per year could be a SPPAC open house, using a different kind of format where people could find out about SPPAC, learn about what the issues are and participate more.

Andy wondered if public expectations may be interfering with recruitment. Those people who don't wish to volunteer for SPPAC may feel that it is pointless as they can't make decisions. However, it should be remembered that the importance of SPPAC comes from diverse discussion of issues in order to provide meaningful feedback and/or recommendations to the Regional Director. SPPAC members, present and potential, along with the public, need to understand that while this is not a decision making group, all suggestions and recommendations are listened to and considered but cannot always be agreed upon or acted on.

**Action:** SPPAC will hold an open house type meeting in the fall, possibly October.

### **New Business**

#### **Lack of 'Presence' & Information**

Brought forward by Bob Bock (public) - See attachment.

Philip commented that he and Andy are aware of Mr. Bock's concerns and while his observations about insufficient presence by BC Parks staff or volunteers "may" be correct, not much can be done about adding people resources at this time.

**Action:** Philip will email Mr. Bock and ask for more specific details regarding lack of information and people on Forbidden Plateau.

#### **Master Plan - Review and/or Amendments**

Andy advised that this topic was intended to have BC Parks Planner, Hayley Dato provide information to SPPAC about current Master Plan and Amendments review processes.

**Action:** This will be referred to a future meeting and made a high priority with sufficient time available.

### **Community Engagement Officer, Craig Meding**

This is a new position and is being defined as it develops. Craig wants to be involved in SPPAC and be a conduit. He admits he is in the process of learning about BC Parks policies and procedures generally and area/regional issues specifically. His region is the entire West Coast including Haida Gwaii. Craig is based out of Rath Trevor Beach Park.

**Next Meeting: Late October.**

### **Public Comments**

Marlene Smith asked about unfettered public access through the Clayoquot Wilderness Resort (CWR) property in the lower Bedwell Sound. Don confirmed there is currently a free unfettered public access around the Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge along the river through a license of occupation providing access to the Crown land behind the private property. Don did research access in the past and at that time asked the Ministry of Transportation about the road through CWR who confirmed it is not public.

## **Strathcona Update for SPPAC Meeting April 13, 2018** (Last update August 11, 2017)

### **Strathcona Staffing**

Seasonal staff – Senior Ranger, Jamie Godfrey, who switched to the Strathcona area in the fall of 2017, will be returning (April 23<sup>rd</sup> – November 23<sup>rd</sup>) to lead potentially two (2) other Rangers this season, including Harry Reddin returning for his second season (May 7<sup>th</sup> – October 14<sup>th</sup>). While we are still trying to confirm a 3<sup>rd</sup> position, this decision has yet to be finalized and is dependant on funding resources. If the third position is approved, the new Ranger term would be May 30<sup>th</sup> - August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Supplementing our Vancouver Island (north and south) Ranger staff this season, will be a Student Ranger crew. The following details were recently announced by our Minister, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018:

- BC Parks will be hiring 48 student workers between the ages of 18 and 30 who are currently enrolled in full-time secondary or post-secondary studies, with a strong focus on students from Indigenous backgrounds.
- The program will consist of eight (8), six (6) person crews consisting of a Crew Lead and five (5) Crew Member positions.
- Student Ranger crews will be based out of the following BC Park office locations: Goldstream, Black Creek, North Vancouver, Alice Lake, Kamloops, Manning Park, Prince George, and Smithers and will work from May to the end of August 2018.
- Competitions for Crew Lead and Crew Members positions are now posted and the competitions close April 17, 2018.
- Student Rangers will be on the ground from mid-May to the end of August 2018.

BC Parks North Island Section proposes to share the crew throughout all areas. Area Supervisors in turn have submitted potential projects for the crews and will schedule and share their time accordingly. A few potential projects within Strathcona include: staining of the Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre at Paradise Meadows, completing the finishing work at Croteau Lake group site, reclamation/revegetation work at Battleship Lake, invasive species removal at Buttle Lake area, any appropriate trail maintenance work (limited to day work as crews must return to Black Creek daily), sign inventory/assessment work in Buttle Lake Corridor and/or Forbidden Plateau, and planning and implementing an accessibility day at Paradise Meadows/Forbidden Plateau.

### **1) Backcountry Maintenance Contract**

Park Operator, 43K Wilderness Solutions are continuing as the Park Operator in their fourth season of a ten (10) year contract.

### **2) Frontcountry Maintenance Contract**

43K Wilderness Solutions will be starting their second season of a ten (10) year contract as the Strathcona Frontcountry Park Operator in the Buttle Lake corridor area. 43K has already been involved in partnering a few projects, including the change from diesel generator electricity to a solar panel system at the old headquarters site, the conversion of the underutilized Karst Creek day-use site to a new in-demand group site day-use mixed site, along with helping with the multi-year capital program upgrades to the Ralph River campground.

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

The mine is currently preparing for opening in August. A Nyrstar status report prepared by Nicole Pesonen, Environmental Advisor, is attached to the bottom of this Strathcona update.

- BC Parks and Ministry of Mines have reviewed proposed mine start-up plans and after careful consideration by all members of the Vancouver Island Mine Review Committee, the plans are in the final stages of approval.
- BC Parks did raise concerns about proposed plans concerning the extraction of remnant ore in the Lynx area which required road improvements for hauling at the expense of losing many trees. As a result the mine abandoned the road modification plans and will be developing a “chute” concept to bring ore down to the processing level.
- BC Parks also reviewed plans for hauling ore from the existing portal in the Thelwood Valley (lower Jim Mitchell Lake Road). While the project will provide an opportunity to improve road conditions in the lower reaches, there was some concern about impacts to public access. As a result, the mine will “batch” haul one (1) night per week with a full road closure, except for emergency access when needed. This means that several loads will be taken overnight during a twelve (12) hour shift. BC Parks still needs to approve a final detailed haul plan.
- The mine also submitted a request to establish new drill sites in the Myra Valley operations area to obtain more groundwater data. While most of the proposed sites were already in disturbed areas and therefore approved, two (2) sites were in new undisturbed areas. As a result, BC Parks did not approve these sites and requested the mine obtain data from the other drill holes first. If further drilling is still required, the mine is required to submit a new proposal with justification for BC Parks to consider.

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

The multi-year upgrade of the Ralph River Campground was started in the fall of 2017 with all new toilets and signage being installed and a couple of unstable sites along the river being decommissioned. Work will continue this season (likely in the slow shoulder fall season) with site re-alignment/reconfiguring for better vehicle access. Also planned as part of this project (probably as a last step), will be the resurfacing of the roads and pads with new gravel.

The Capital Program has also committed to the following two (2) other projects this season:

- Assessment and design work for Circlet Lake and Kwai Lake campgrounds (planning/design work only).
- Exploring the feasibility and costs of replacing the aging toilets within the Forbidden Plateau area.

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

The Croteau Lake group site and yurt shelter was substantially completed in October 2017 and will be open for use in June once the snow has melted. Bookings can be made through Discover Camping starting April 10, 2018.

BC Parks staff, along with the yurt builder visited the site in mid-March to address a skylight issue as a photograph had been sent to BC Parks in February showing a small gap between the skylight and the roof. Upon arrival at the site and digging down to the skylight, the yurt was found to be intact with no repair necessary. It is now both a puzzle as to how the gap came to be in the first place and how it was repaired afterwards. As no one has ever acknowledged repairing the skylight, one potential theory is that someone tried to gain access through the skylight and after realizing it couldn't be done, returned to repair the small damage they made.

Finishing work planned for this spring includes the installation of the dock, stainless steel sink within the yurt, completion of the greywater drain, completion of the perimeter drain around the yurt and the installation of new signage. Also planned when funds are confirmed, will be the construction of a deck in front of the yurt as well as one (1) additional tent pad to be used as a potential “host” site if/when a host program can be developed. Ranger staff will be tasked in working out details of this program for possible implementation in 2019.

BC Parks marketing department along with collaboration from the Park Operator's marketing specialist are developing plans for the promotion of this new group site.

## **6) BACKCOUNTRY**

Della Falls – Other than the repairs to the cable car and dock last fall, the only thing new is a report that the old Della Falls trailhead sign has fallen down. The sign will be assessed as soon as possible this spring, along with the rest of the trail in order to make plans for any maintenance and repair work. While the remoteness, access, and limited visitation has never warranted a formal maintenance program in the past, the ever increasing attendance, the establishment of a water taxi, and the constant need for ongoing maintenance of aging facilities (bridges, cable car, toilet, signage and campsites), raises the question of whether to consider moving towards a Park Operator format for this area. This would involve developing a Park Operator agreement to maintain the area in exchange for collecting camping revenue. It is doubtful camping fees could ever offset maintenance costs so BC Parks would need to supplement under this type of format, but this and perhaps other concepts could be explored if there was support.

Circlet Lake/Kwai Lake – An initial assessment of both Circlet Lake Campground along with Kwai Lake Campground, was conducted in September 2017 and there was consensus that upgrades of both sites are needed. Therefore, a more formal assessment and design plan will be contracted for during 2018 with hopes of implementing a multi-year campground improvement project in 2019.

Gold Lake Trail – No change since last update. Ranger staff will be tasked at accessing this area during this season to assess and ensure no illegal activity is happening.

Elk River Trail – The section of trail on the side slope where the retaining wall is failing was assessed by Stonecroft Engineering from Campbell River who developed a design plan for trail improvements/stabilization. Depending on confirmation of funding, it is hoped that this work will be done during the 2018 season. As previously noted in other updates, 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 for 2018. The trail and facilities will be monitored for safety issues which will be addressed as needed (temporary or complete repair).

Bedwell River Trail – While the Ahousaht First Nation is still interested in upgrading this trail from Bedwell Lake down to Bedwell Sound, they have delayed any further plans until they have confirmed plans for the development of their IR at Bedwell Sound.

Unfortunately, as stated in the past, there appears to still 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 and potentially displace wildlife routines. However, BC Parks does support exploring things further with all stakeholders and has tried to arrange a meeting between the Ahousaht First Nation, Friends of Strathcona and BC Parks to discuss pros and cons of the various options. Should the Ahousaht determine that the original trail plan is not worth pursuing or unrealistic and would like to assess and propose an alternate trail to meet BC Parks standards, BC Parks might re-consider its position but only after discussion of any proposal through SPPAC and BC Parks internal specialists, followed by a detailed plan and environmental assessment.

The Comox District Mountaineering Club – This group continues to help BC Parks maintain some of the less popular, lesser priority areas of Strathcona. The West Coast Region nominated the CDMC as Provincial Volunteer Group of the Year in 2016 and again in 2017

(still awaiting results for 2017). The long term park and community supporters will again be assisting BC Parks in 2018 and we look forward to reviewing this season's work proposal.

Comox Glacier – While TimberWest has again restricted access along the access roads temporarily, we are optimistic that access will be restored again this season (subject to bush closures due to fire hazards).

TW has agreed to BC Parks request to establish a sign shelter at or near the trailhead to provide a suitable trail map of the area along with user ethics, notices, and general information. TW has offered to provide the shelter and work with BC Parks collaboratively on signage. We look forward to having this project progress in 2018.

Yellow Chair Program – While the chairs will be installed again at Battleship Lake, no signage has yet to be developed due to other priorities in 2017. Ranger staff will be tasked in developing the new signage and will install it during the 2018 season.

### **7) Crest Creek Climbing Area & West Boundary Camping Proposal**

While BC Parks is still enforcing the no camping regulation in the Crest Creek Day-Use area, Area Supervisor Andy Smith, has also been proactive in trying to find an alternative site. The result has been the identification of Crown land just outside the west park boundary, approximately 1.5 km from Crest Creek Day-Use (see photo below). The Recreation Sites and Trails division of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (FLNRORD), were contacted to discuss the feasibility of developing a campsite in this new location and after an initial site visit and assessment have confirmed support of the concept and welcome exploring the potential development further. Plans can progress after discussion and confirmation of reasonable support (suggest communication with the Island's general climbing community). BC Parks has agreed to help initiate communication and be involved as needed and confirmed one (1) SPPAC member, Bill Phipps, who has volunteered to take the lead as a liaison between SPPAC, BC Parks, the climbing community, FLNRORD and other identified key stakeholders. The Crown property identified is large and located next to the Heber River which offers much flexibility in development. FLNRORD has also indicated that they would probably have funding resources for development and be open to discussions regarding how to develop the site. The old Heber Penstock corridor "may" also provide a connection back to Crest Creek which would need to be assessed, discussed and approved for use by BC Parks.

Photo of Location of FLNRO Proposed Recreation Site/Campground on West Boundary



#### **8) BC Hydro Water Use Plan Recreation Enhancements Hydro**

BC Hydro has been working with BC Parks over the last couple of years to address their mandated commitment of the approved Water Use Plan for the Campbell River system. With a fixed budget, BC Hydro committed to doing upgrades to the two (2) boat launches (Buttle Lake and Karst Creek) as well as addressing public lake access issues in Buttle Lake campground.

Buttle Lake Campground, Day-Use Trail Development – Have met on site a couple of times with BC Hydro reps, consultants, Park Operator and BC Parks reps. Just received a conceptual plan for new trail development (basically following existing user created corridors) around north side of bay out to a location where summer water levels provide enough depth for swimming. There are three (3) options to consider but each has difficulty addressing universal access needs while also building outside the flood zone. A decision will be made this spring with development possible for fall 2018 or spring 2019.

Boat Launches – While both the Buttle Lake and Karst Creek boat launches will be enhanced with new cement ribs etc., the Buttle Lake launch (located at north end of lake near HQ) will be the priority for funding with Karst Creek being enhanced as much as possible with any remaining funds.

Littoral & Riparian Zone Enhancements – Assessments around Buttle Lake have been made in 2017 and are being reviewed. As the lake is too big and there aren't enough funds to enhance the entire lake area, priority areas are being chosen in higher visibility areas and where assessments indicate success is more probable. Enhancements will be focussed on stabilization (bio-engineering techniques) and plantings. Work may start in 2018 or 2019.

#### **9) Wood Mountain Provincial Park *(Discussion 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 is continuing through the "Forbidden Plateau Reclamation Society." BC Parks has finalized a multi-year contract (\$1) with the Society to allow them to remove foundations and debris from the site. Work started in Sept/Oct 2017 removing the main lodge foundation and knocking down several other foundations prior to stopping due to snow. Work will continue in 2018 depending on resources and availability of equipment and trucks. The Society is trying to finalize an agreement with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development to enable them to work on the Crown land portion of the area. Soil testing of the old bio-cell sites is also planned for 2018 if funds allow. While the bio-cell soil stockpiles don't need to be disturbed, the soil testing will confirm if they can be if required.

**NYRSTAR MYRA FALLS OPERATIONS UPDATE FOR APRIL 13, 2018 SPPAC MEETING**  
**(Prepared by Nicole Pesonen, Nyrstar Environmental Advisor)**

As requested, below is a summary of key update items for your April 13, 2018 meeting with SPPAC.

- Randy McMahon has moved on from Nyrstar. We are actively looking for a new GM. In the interim, our acting GM is Mr. Glenn Smith, who has been with Nyrstar for several years and has a wealth of experience in projects such as the Myra Falls Restart. Glenn's expertise in this area is a great asset to ensuring the restart project runs smoothly.
- Nyrstar has been working with the Major Mines Permitting Office on Permit amendments in support of the restart since February 2017. This is nearing completion and a decision on the permit is expected in May 2018. Air, Effluent and *Mine's Act* Permits are all being updated in this permitting effort. We expect a decision on the Closure designs submitted in December of 2016 at the same time.
- Works at site have been underway to repair and rehabilitate infrastructure in the mill and underground to ensure safety and environmental compliance upon restart. This includes repairs and updates to the ventilation systems in the mill and underground, replacement of the old diesel powerhouse (newer more efficient version), repairs to the underground crusher, and repairs to the underground fire suppression, etc.
- 2018 plan includes continuing with removal of waste rock from slopes to use for construction of the Lynx TDF, and implementation of stage 1 of the Old TDF closure plan – making stable flow channels in the Clean Cover and down the face of the berm. This will decrease erosion on the face of the berm, and will allow the completed area to be planted for final reclamation.
- The Lynx TDF was lifted by 4.3 m (permitted to 5.7 m lift) using waste rock that needed to be removed under the waste rock reclamation designs. This lift has brought the dam into compliance with the new Canadian Dam Association (CDA) guidelines for the flood storage levels. Previous flood storage was 78,000 cubic meters of storage, with the new guidelines requiring 303,000 cubic meters of storage, which we now exceed. Ongoing work to complete this lift to the full 5.7 m, and to add an emergency spillway will be undertaken in 2018. A permit application is in with the EMPR to add an additional lift to the facility for 2019 tailings storage (to be constructed in 2018 and 2019).
- Removal of the surface magazines on the Tennent Road is still part of the progressive reclamation plan, this work is tentatively planned for 2022 in the current schedule – Nyrstar needs to complete work in the alternative location to be compliant with the regulations for explosive storage, and this will take a number of years to complete. The closure plan to change the building pads into parking for the park users is our preferred option as well.
- Removal of waste from Dump 2 revealed original topsoil and coarse woody debris. Sampling indicates that the material is impacted by being covered in waste

(higher metals than the surrounding natural soils), but will be a suitable growth medium. An erosion prevention plan is being developed, and the area will be vegetated with Red Alder and other native plants. Vegetation will be monitored for metal uptake in the leaves, roots and stems to ensure the material is safe for grazing. Run-off from the area will be routed to treatment until the water is proven to be clean, at which time it will be directed to the creek via a clean water diversion. Before and after photos are included below.

- Nyrstar plans to apply to place a security gate at the Info Centre shortly. You should see the submission in the next two (2) weeks.