

**STRATHCONA PARK PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(March 27, 2014 – BC Parks Office, Rath Trevor Park)**

**SPPAC MEMBERS:** Tawney Lem (Chair), Philip Stone, Mick Taylor, Hardolph Wasteneys, Allison Mewett, Darren Saare

**Regrets:** Nick Page, Peggy Carswell, David Campbell, Erik Holbek

**BC Parks:** Andy Smith, Aaron Miller

**Public:** The Heathens (Chris Barner, Paul Rydeen and Garner Bergeron), Ken Vandeburgt, Adam Vojnic

**Recorder:** John Milne

**1. Introductions** - The last meeting's minutes were approved by email and posted on BC Parks' website and the SPPAC Facebook page.

**2. Approve Agenda**

**3. Strathcona Update** (Andy - see attached report following meeting minutes)

Discussion and answers to questions on the update follow:

This update is posted on BC Parks' website and will be put on SPPAC's Facebook page after this meeting.

Andy has been in correspondence with the Mountain Resorts Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to talk about the adjacent Class C Wood Mountain Provincial Park. While this land and the adjacent Crown land (between Wood Mtn and Strathcona Park) is still on the table for treaty settlement, there is a need to clean up the abandoned ski resort facilities, i.e. lifts, building foundations, etc..

The Crest Creek dredging and berm construction project which was completed in Fall of 2013, has been inspected and is looking good. As part of this project, BC Hydro accommodated a request by the local climbing community and BC Parks to build up a staging area adjacent to the creek directly below a popular rock face. There was a bit of expected minor erosion as the new berms stabilize. There was also a situation where a few fish were stranded in a back channel when water levels dropped to normal. This will be rectified, with DFO input. The Heber Penstock corridor which terminates at Crest Creek is becoming revegetated naturally as planned. As a reminder, all the contaminated soil was removed with the old penstock.

Regarding the Lower Bedwell River Trail, the Clayoquot Wilderness Resort will be doing field assessments and planning this summer then submitting detailed working plans to BC Parks in the Fall for review and approval. Park staff will be visiting the trail this year to help assess plans prior to approval. BC Parks hopes to share these plans with SPPAC before final approval.

Tawney will send out the list of potential park projects for SPPAC members to prioritize. This will also go to the public. Tawney noted SWI has collected information from the public about trail conditions and this information should be reviewed as part of the discussion on potential projects.

Andy spoke about the No Fire sign project. This Friends of Strathcona Park Initiative, lead by Carol Hunter, has so far resulted in the design of two different versions of signs to be placed at trailheads. In the backcountry, other less formal signs (hopefully designed by students) are planned to be placed in small cabinets so they can be easily changed periodically. The cabinets, placed in key priority areas, will be secure so they can't be tampered with. While there are problems all over Strathcona, the signs will be restricted to an area where the zoning allows signage (not in a Wilderness Conservation Zone where no man made infrastructure is allowed). These cabinets are not expensive to buy. Six cabinets will be installed to start with, with the possibility of more in the future.

The Gold Lake access is not being used due to deteriorating road conditions. Access to Gold Lake from the Gold River side would be beneficial for the community, but due to poor access corridor and really no ideal destination at the west end of lake, there are no plans to develop a new trail at this time. The existing trail accessing the east end of the lake is still open but there has been some significant blow-down along the trail. There is some lovely old growth timber in that area which is an attraction. With lack of use and planned road deactivation into the trailhead at east end of lake, this trail will be a low priority for BC Parks maintenance. If there is a high demand for keeping the trail open and maintained, perhaps volunteers or a group such as the Fish and Game Club may be interested in becoming involved,

The Vancouver Island Spine trail is an item for future discussion, as part of it is proposed to pass through Strathcona Park. While trail planners are proposing the development of a new short connector trail, BC Parks prefers they use existing trails, and not build new ones. VISTA is talking about going via Circler Lake, Amphitheatre Lake, Sunrise and Harris Lakes and then connecting to logging roads outside the park. This would involve about 1 km of new trail and is not currently supported by Parks. Gil Parker is the Spine Trail representative. There will be a workshop on this held at the end of May. Negotiations for access further south on the island are being conducted.

#### **4. Heathens - Volunteer Agreements**

Tawney spoke of the open communication guidelines SPPAC uses in its meetings. SPPAC is interested in hearing about the negotiations between the Heathens and Parks. SPPAC supports partnership/volunteer agreements being developed as a medium for completing projects. The committee would like to hear about any concerns.

Chris Barner spoke about the Heathens not wanting to sign a new volunteer agreement because they like the old one they used in the past. The Heathens have a long, 30 year history of working with park staff, most of who are now retired. Chris displayed a large number of documents illustrating the history of their involvement. Their history of making presentations to parks goes back to 1991. Their intent is to work towards achieving the goals of the Park Master Plan. They previously received formal recognition from the government for their volunteer activities. Chris showed what at that time he believed to be the original signed agreement between Parks and the Heathens and read some of its conditions. Upon further examination it was later confirmed that this agreement only covered one season. Chris referred to Cloudburst issues from the 1990's describing some of their projects. There was a history of cooperation with park staff during this period. The Heathen's proactive approach is responsible for many of the developments at the Crest Creek Crags area. The Heathen's have a long history of performing volunteer work. Money to fund their work dried up in the late 1990's and volunteer work became more difficult with less support. The Heathens found other third party sources of funding, e.g. MEC. The Heathens feel that support from park staff dried up as well due to cuts, so they carried on with their own resources.

The Heathens feel that the new agreement format is onerous and don't want to spend time developing a new agreement (despite having the Community Engagement Contractor available to address any paperwork). Chris announced their retirement from working with BC Parks. He noted that they are working on other projects elsewhere outside of the park system, because they want to get things done and not get bogged down.

Chris said that he will not liaise with BC Parks any more. He is not looking for support, but wants this recorded in the minutes of this meeting as records of past efforts have not been available. He referred to Parks being unable to find copies of the past Volunteer Agreement (based on the agreement presented, it appears that Chris misunderstood the term of that agreement, not realizing it was not a long term agreement and only applied for 1 season). Andy also advised that the only document in question (can't find) is a long term agreement with which was searched for numerous times and could not be found in any files. There were, however, several short term agreements like the one Chris produced and that all the other pamphlets and booklets that Chris presented, i.e. Master Plan and other government documents are also on file.

Phillip thanked Chris for this and wants to discuss the issue. Listening to Chris' comments, he said it sounds like the main sticking point is Parks, not the Volunteer Agreement. Phillip asked Andy and Aaron for their response. Phillip recognized the extensive volunteer work at the Crest Creek area, and mentioned there are potential safety issues if the area is not maintained. Therefore, he asked, "What happens now?" Andy said he does not have a plan, as he only just learned of the Heathens withdrawing their volunteer support/activity at Crest Creek. A review and development of an agreement was all that is required and this was supposed to be a good thing and a great opportunity to rebuild support and relations. An agreement simply confirms the vision for the area, identifies proposed work and allows BC Parks to remain knowledgeable about activities within the park to enable them to provide required authorization. However, BC Parks will now assess things and weigh options. One idea is to explore a partnership with Strathcona Park Lodge to take on the management of this area who have already indicated that they would be willing to help out due to their long history with the park and Crest Creek Crags.

Alison asked about support and the budget process. Andy advised he is not given an Area Budget but rather, an operational budget is allocated to each region and is shared amongst areas based on priorities. Chris recognized Andy's position and his issues are with the Ministry, not Andy.

Hardolph asked about the Adopt a Trail Program. Andy said the Program was active a long time ago, and it faded away when the Extension Program was cut.

Tawney summarized the issue as the Heathens feeling that they have not been supported for a long time. Is there any will to reconcile these differences? Chris said no. He said there could have been about 12 years ago, but it's too late now.

Philip said the public and the climbing communities will be the ones impacted with the Heathens dropping out, not BC Parks. There will still be a climbing area out there that will need to be managed. Philip feels that it is unlikely that any other entity will ever do the same quality of work that the Heathen's have done. Chris said Parks lose volunteer groups when they are treated badly. The requirement to discuss and develop a new volunteer agreement is the part that pushed them over the edge. This is an issue of respect and lack of support.

Chris noted that this is a sudden development for Parks and SPPAC, but for the Heathens it's been developing for a long time. Hiring a person to facilitate the signing of volunteer agreements when the system is starved for money is ironic. Chris said there was talk of hiring a contractor to maintain the area, which is also ironic. Phillip pointed out having the history of the infrastructure is important. Parks will have to decide whether to find another group to take it on, to close it, or to hire someone to manage it.

Is there any interest to explore a further opportunity? Is there a place for this in a new Volunteer Agreement? Would Chris be willing to put something together, i.e. a kind of wish list? Chris wasn't sure if there was any point in doing this. He claims he has no control over the climbers in his group who do the work, since he's lost his credibility with them by trying to get them to look at the volunteer agreement. Is a wish list the only glimmer of hope?

Andy doesn't want to rehash the past. He appreciates all the Heathens have done and sees the new agreements as a great opportunity to rebuild. He defended the hiring of a facilitator for the volunteer agreements, as it came from another budget area (Park Enhancement Fund) not operational money and was rooted to a suggestion made by SPPAC to help facilitate the volunteer effort. Relationships can and should evolve.

Andy said he couldn't find an old long term agreement Chris referred to. Chris gave Andy what he believed was the old agreement to look at. Apparently this agreement Chris presented only covered one season.

Is there a possibility of using a professional mediator to help facilitate this disagreement? Aaron spoke about mechanisms available in agreements to cover many issues. Parks can offer some things within their ability to do what they can. He recognizes Chris' position. Aaron recognized and listed many of the problems Chris noted about the new agreements and said they could be worked on. Chris is not willing to sit down with BC Parks at this time. Tawney asked if there is any opening to talk with anyone from the Heathens. Chris said there is nobody else. He contacted others to see if they would be willing to take over, but nobody was. Tawney said there is an opening for discussion if anyone wants.

Chris thanked SPPAC and Parks staff who have made past activities successful.

## 5. Nyrstar Closure Plan

Andy, Tawney, Hardolph and Mick attended the annual mine meeting. This meeting had more concrete detail than previous meetings. Nyrstar is looking for input so their presentation represents possibilities for discussion.

There are several closure scenarios possible:

**-In situ dry cover** (which is what has been done the last few years) - This approach maintains the water table using drainage pipes underneath. This is a long-term option with maintenance that carries on in perpetuity..

a) **Soil covers** - This is easy to implement, the least expensive, progressive approach, with minimal uncertainty, but also needs maintenance in perpetuity.

b) **Composite covers** - This is similar to soil covers with different materials used.

**-New Storage facilities** - The goal is to keep broken rock away from oxidized water. The old TDF footprint and Myra Creek would be rehabilitated. Overall, cost is an issue here, and the scenarios are not very doable.

a) **Blended waste facility (BWF)** – All material from the old tailings disposal facility (TDF) would be relocated into the Lynx BWF. The volume of the Lynx BWF would be huge (17 million m<sup>3</sup>).

b) **Optional storage and control (OSC)** - Waste rock from the old TDF would be relocated into the Lynx OSC. Tailings from the old TDF would be relocated underground below the flood level. The volume of the Lynx OSC would be less than the Lynx BWF (11 million m<sup>3</sup>).

**-Water Cover** - This approach involves building a dam at the end of the valley and creating a water body to cover the tailings. This has been done elsewhere. This seals the tailings effectively and prevents acid rock drainage. Whereas the in-situ dry cover and new storage facility options require ongoing water treatment, this approach does not. An artificial lake or a wetland would be at risk in the event of a seismic event.

a) **Myra Lake** - This would be an effective option, and long-term water treatment would not be needed. This is a very stable option. However, it is expensive as it involves building an 80 m high x 650 m long dam to flood the valley and cover the whole site. It would also require a temporary diversion of Myra Creek.

b) **Myra Watershed** - This approach would create a wetland over the site. It is the most stable site configuration, however, there is some performance uncertainty. It involves building a smaller (lower and shorter) than the Myra Lake option (40m high and 500m long). This option may flood into the Class A park area, and may require a boundary adjustment.

Upon full review, Nyrstar is pursuing additional investigation into the Soil Cover option, and the Myra Wetland option. However, they are seeking input from SPPAC and other stakeholders, First Nations and the Vancouver Island Mine Development Committee before moving too far along. A socio-economic impact assessment is planned as well.

Hardolph thinks first option (soil cover) is the best. For one reason, it has Nyrstar actively working on closure while the mine is still active. This is in contrast to the wetland/lake approach, which defers closure activities into the future. If the soil cover option is pursued now, the wetland/lake approach could still be done at some time in the future.

The mine's bond is \$75 million which could go up depending on the closure option chosen. The remaining life of the mine is still cited as being 20 more years, as it has been for a long time (dependant on ore body, pricing, costs and productivity).

Fractures in rock throughout the area means there is a fair amount of groundwater flowing underneath the tailings as well as ground water approaching the tailings. This becomes a main consideration when choosing an effective closure option.

The discussion explored the options, and discussed possible criteria that closure should address. Some examples include:

- Access to trails and other features through the site;
- Comparison of Ecological values between the various options considering the mine is in a park;
- Return the site (as close as possible) to its natural pre-mine state - a forested valley.
- Long term maintenance/monitoring
- Long term risks
- Aesthetics

Andy said regardless of best efforts the mine site will never be or look the same as it was, so we need to consider all options in terms of what is best for the park.

"During the early period of mining tailings were deposited in Buttle Lake and waste rock was deposited on the surface in what are now called waste rock dumps #1 and #6. Metal loading in Buttle Lake increased significantly during this time and while the public believed that the tailings being deposited in the lake were the cause, investigations in the early 1980s revealed that the source was actually the subaerially deposited waste rocks dumps and that the subaqueous tailings were neutral. Subsequent research confirmed this and water treatment facilities established around the dumps resulted in a dramatic drop in metal loading. However, the government also forced the mine to establish subaerial storage facilities for the mine tailings thus obscuring the source of the early pollution."

If Buttle Lake is not an option for tailings storage, Hardolph believes long-term treatment facilities may be the way to go. Hardolph's preference would be trying to restore the land as close to its original condition as possible after reclamation.

Is SPPAC ready to make a recommendation? Alison asked for more information on each option. A revegetation plan is also yet to come. What would be the access to trails? This should be included in the plan. Access to trails cannot be closed off for a period of time. The plan needs to detail how the public will be accommodated.

Access on the road along Buttle Lake would be maintained after closure. Access to the mine site would be necessary for maintaining reclamation activities. A network of roads would be necessary to access monitoring wells and pumping facilities.

Phillip spoke in support of returning the area to a state as natural as possible. SPPAC will continue the discussion and what questions need asking via email.

Andy wondered if it was at all possible to blend the two options of soil cover and the Myra wetland?

Andy also wanted more information about closure plans for the rest of the mining operations, i.e. Tenant Lake and Jim Mitchell Lake dams and associated penstocks, etc.

## **6. Bill 4 and Amendments to Park Act**

**Bill 4** - Tawney mentioned that there are some initiatives that are underway to try to have Bill 4 repealed. Don Cadden was told this was on the agenda. He said Victoria staff representatives are willing to meet with SPPAC and FOSP to discuss how Bill 4 may be implemented (e.g. policy direction). The Ministry representative could be Brian Bawtinheimer, Executive Director or someone else at a high level, i.e. Assistant Deputy Minister. Andy suggested to Don Cadden that FOSP be included in this meeting.

Alison asked if proposals under Bill 4 would be brought to SPPAC for review. Tawney sees this as a broader issue and doesn't want to talk about individual proposals being brought to SPPAC. Research for the purposes of industrial development shouldn't be an option in the first place. Further, SPPAC's advice on any such proposals could be ignored.

There was no public consultation on this Bill, and as it has already been passed, is there any value in speaking to a staff person now? There was some discussion about what the new amendment says and whether or not to meet with a senior staff member. Mr. Bawtinheimer works at the policy level so he would be a good person to take a message back to the ADM. He is involved in developing new policy, and therefore may be a good person to discuss concerns with on how the Bill is interpreted and implemented by staff.

Darren would like to hear the rationale behind what the legislation means, so he supports a meeting prior to this meeting, Tawney would like to invite input from others to help craft SPPAC's message. FOSP is invited to be at the table at this meeting. SPPAC will ask Don Cadden for

details as to what exactly is planned, who would be involved, and how many people can be invited to attend.

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**How to Give the Committee Teeth** - This issue was raised with Don Cadden. There is a general acknowledgement that SPPAC will not be granted decision-making authority, because the government will not allow anything that fetters the authority of the Minister. However, if Don sees other options for increasing the influence of SPPAC, the committee would like to discuss this with him.

## **7. SPPAC Terms of Reference**

**Discussion on Amendments** - Some email communication has occurred on this. This will be further discussed online, and a special meeting will be held with Don Cadden to discuss this. Findings from the SPPAC Public Communications Subcommittee may be useful for this discussion. The subcommittee will have a report for the rest of SPPAC in June, so the meeting with Don would be scheduled after this.

## **8. Public Communications Committee Up (Mick and Tawney)**

A questionnaire was circulated online to ask what issues the public is interested in receiving information about and providing feedback on. There were 156 responses. 84% of respondents interact with the Park through the backcountry. The age distribution of respondents was spread out, but for gender, 70% were male and 30% were female. There was good geographic distribution. 58% of respondents are a member of an organized group (mostly recreation groups). SPPAC needs to work on public awareness of what it does. Many people don't even know SPPAC exists. Respondents provided good suggestions of how to get the word out (e.g. posters around the park and at relevant businesses, unpaid newspaper articles, and contacting high school groups). People want to communicate around budget issues, the Master Plan, and operational issues. Most respondents don't want to attend SPPAC meetings for a number of reasons, therefore email and social media are important methods of communication. 52 respondents gave their email addresses in order to receive future information. SPPAC will continue to grow this network. The subcommittee will have a report with recommendations for the June meeting. Establishing increased communication is important because SPPAC is the only organized, regular, medium for public engagement regarding Strathcona Park. Of note, SPPAC is the only such committee in the entire B.C. Parks system.

9. **Be a Park Hero program** - There was not enough time to discuss this item.

**Next meeting** - June 5, 5 - 9 p.m. at the BC Parks Miracle Beach Office, Comox Valley

The following is the update referred to in item 3 above.

**Strathcona Update for SPPAC**  
**March 27, 2014 (BC Parks Black Creek Office)**

**Strathcona Staffing** – No seasonal staff working at this time.

Park Facility Operator - Jerry McArthur, Windy Park Operations, is entering his last season under the current contract.

Seasonal staff (one Senior and one Regular Ranger) has been approved again for 2014. Peter Hehl (2013 Senior Ranger) won't be returning as he was successful in becoming the new Manager for the Courtenay SPCA.

Jeff Hoy (2013 Backcountry Ranger), will be offered the Senior Ranger position leaving an opening for a new Ranger. Jeff was also successful in winning the 10 week contract to provide Volunteer Engagement Services for the Strathcona Area (liaising with local groups and coordinating the development of volunteer agreements).

**1) Nyrstar**

- Nyrstar staff and consultant met with SPPAC members and BC Parks staff on February 7, 2014, in Black Creek to provide a summary of 2013 work completed, proposed work for 2014 and to present an update on Nyrstar's Closure Plan development due in July 2014. Members were provided a copy of the presentation for their review and consideration. Nyrstar would like some comments back from SPPAC as soon as possible so that all input can be considered and addressed while developing the new plan.
- Nyrstar announced their 2013 donation of \$50,000 to Strathcona Park and identified their preference for the funds to be used to assess and if approved, develop a group campsite at Croteau Lake on Forbidden Plateau.

**2) Capital Projects**

We have been advised that funding allocations this season will only allow for the completion of the 1/3 portion of Battleship/Kwai Lake enhancements (2/3 of this project was completed in 2013). The 2014 work will be completed by the same contractor "Great Installations" and will begin late Spring/early summer depending on conditions and contractor scheduling.

**4) Crest Creek Dredging Project**

This project as reported last meeting was completed in September 2013, and included enhancements to accommodate a staging area under the lakeside climbing walls. Storms this winter have caused some minimal erosion of built up berms (was expected) but consistent monitoring by BC Hydro and BC Parks staff haven't identified any major concerns. However, the side tributary coming down of the side hill (often minimal to dry in summer) had to be channeled along foot of hillside parallel to Crest Creek prior to entering main stream. Heavy volumes during fish migration encouraged fish up this side channel only to be stranded once water receded (two to three fish were counted). Fisheries were made aware of this situation. It may be easily addressed by the placement of permanent or temporary fish gates across tributary entrance. BC Hydro had originally wanted to backfill this small catchment area (created originally when the diversion outlet was installed), but Fisheries preferred it be left intact. BC Hydro has identified Crest Creek for more consistent maintenance (dredging and berm repairs), in the meantime monitoring will continue. The Heathens were invited to provide input into the project and appreciated getting this work done.

**5) CWR Park Use Permit** – Work plans will be developed this Spring and Summer season for BC Parks review and groundtruthing if/when needed. No trail enhancement work can begin without BC Parks approval of plans.

**6) Croteau Lake Group Site** – After considering a list of potential projects BC Parks presented for consideration, Nyrstar Mining donated \$50,000 for the development of a group campsite at Croteau Lake. Nyrstar was made aware that while SPPAC supports this concept, the project would be contingent upon an assessment, discussion and approval of this internal proposal.

## **7) Backcountry**

**Plateau Ranger Cabin** – While SPPAC and the general public confirmed conceptual support for the project to move ahead to the next adjudication stage (SPPAC made recommendations to the Regional Director, who then considered and agreed with them prior to advising ACC of the next step), a change in the ACC executive body a new vote, resulted in the ACC withdrawing their proposal. It would appear that this proposal will not move ahead. BC Parks will remain open to the idea of public use of this building, should another non-profit group wish to present another concept/proposal for consideration, i.e. day-use only warming hut for summer, winter or both.

**Bedwell Lakes Trail Upgrades** – No new progress since last update. The project to repair/replace the long section of boardwalk that skirts the Baby Bedwell lakeshore, while completed in 2013 did not meet standards and will be modified by contractor in Spring 2014.

**Elk River Trail Upgrades** – No new progress. While it was hoped that there might be sufficient capital funds available this year, there are only enough funds to complete the work on Forbidden Plateau. It still may be possible however (dependent on operational funds) to get new food caches installed at the campsites (replaces old cable system).

**Arnica Lake** – No new progress. The human waste issue continues. Rangers will be directed to explore yet another new z-best toilet site again this season (new site flooded in 2013). If unsuccessful a different solution will need to be explored, i.e. fly-out; new type of alpine composter (haven't found one yet that would work). Repairs to some of the tent pads and a bridge replacement are still required. We will continue to look for adequate PRV (maintenance) budget to address these issues.

**Gold Lake Access** – The logging road leading to the eastern access trail to Gold Lake is getting very rough and needing 4x4 or at least trucks. Most vehicles will not be able to access the last 1.5 km. Coincidentally, the Ministry of Forests contacted BC Parks to advise that the last approximate 5-6 km of road past Grilse Creek was going to be decommissioned, probably in 2014, due to unsafe bridge and lack of forestry need. The road will probably remain accessible to ATV and/or trail bikes, but not vehicles. Use has been declining at Gold Lake due to poor access, so this may reduce use to minimal leaving the question as to what, if anything we should do about this trail.

**8) Park Enhancement Funds (PEF)** – The Island Region was allocated additional funds for 2014 and Volunteer Groups will have the opportunity to submit proposals for park projects up to \$3500 each. Like previous years, all proposals will be assessed by the Regional Management Team and they will make the selections for support. A request for SWI support will be submitted again this year along with another request to support the Friends of Strathcona Park new “NO Fire” sign initiative which was started in 2013 (they were allocated \$2500 last year).

As an update the Friends of Strathcona Park “No Fire” sign initiative is ongoing and two sign concepts have been approved to go to final design and fabrication. A total of 6 signs will be fabricated in April for installation at key trailheads. With new PEF funds, additional signs, hopefully designed by students, will be created for backcountry campsites. As a trial, BC Parks will purchase miniature cabinets to be installed on posts, to allow for easy rotation of signs in the backcountry, keeping the messaging fresh and eye-catching, while creating pride in the students work.

Volunteer Park Warden Program – Carol Hunter has been working with Jeff Hoy (contracted for 10 weeks to provide assistance for Volunteer and Community engagement projects) to prepare a draft proposal to resurrect a volunteer warden/trail host program in Strathcona. Carol while willing to lead this initiative would like to develop a 3 person committee to complete the proposal and help implement it once approved.

### **9) Volunteer Community Engagement Services Contract**

As noted above, Jeff Hoy (Seasonal Ranger) was successful in winning the contract to liaise with and assist Volunteer Groups in developing new Partnership Agreements with BC Parks. This contract is for 10 weeks ending at the end of April. Jeff has been meeting and talking with various group reps and those who wish to assist BC Parks with work in Strathcona Park can use Jeff’s services to take care of the development of these agreements. These agreements at this stage will be quite broad (can be detailed if there is a specific project proposed) to provide long term authorization to groups for working within Strathcona. As specific projects are identified, a project description can be prepared and submitted for consideration within the Annual Management Planning Cycle.

Unfortunately, while the development of these new Partnership Agreements was proposed as a great opportunity to build stronger relations with local groups, address issues, brainstorm ideas and identify needs so we can all work together for common goals. However, one group, the Heathens, do not wish to enter into any agreement, yet want to continue working within Strathcona Park. This has resulted in a good initiative turning into a potential compliance issue (the Park Act requires any work in a park to be authorized). Attempts to meet with the Heathens to address issues have been rejected and a creative proposal to form a 3-way partnership with Strathcona Park Lodge (SPL agreed to be the “official partner” for signing purposes) was also rejected, citing that working with SPL would be too time consuming and require the Heathens to constantly “train” SPL staff. The Heathens requested and were granted time at the next SPPAC meeting to present some history and explain why they don’t wish to cooperate with BC Parks. BC Parks is still optimistic that things can eventually be worked out so that the Heathens feel respected and supported while continuing to volunteer their efforts in maintaining the Crest Creek Crag area.

**10) Strathcona Potential Projects List** – A list and corresponding location map was developed and presented to SPPAC identifying potential projects and initiatives within Strathcona Park worth considering for future implementation. The non-prioritized list was developed only to identify projects and intended to be used to add to or delete as more input and discussion takes place. The projects do not have any committed funds associated with them, although current Park Enhancement Funds in Strathcona’s account could be a potential funding source should various projects be supported. Some of these projects or initiatives could also be pursued in partnership with local support groups if they are interested.