

Ann Dickie, 03:25 PM 10/30/02, TIRRA Community Trail

Date: Wed, 30 Oct 2002 15:25:48 -0800 (Pacific Standard Time)
 X-Mailer: IncrediMail 2001 (1800814)
 From: "Ann Dickie" <lawrenspring@pacificcoast.net>
 X-FID: FLAVOR00-NONE-0000-0000-000000000000
 X-FVER: 3.0
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 To: <jan_stadt@telus.net>
 Cc: <jkyouds@island.net>, "pas@pacificcoast.net" <pas@pacificcoast.net>
 Subject: TIRRA Community Trail Thanks. Anyone who wants to participate in Operation Christmas Child this year, is asked to bring their completed box to Ann Dickie @ 246-4079 prior to November 12th. We will not be meeting at the hall this year to pack boxes, but I will be happy to deliver individuals' boxes from Thetis to the Duncan Shoebox handling center. Please remember that the boxes will be opened for screening prior to shipping. Wrap the box and lid separately. Remember: No make-up, war toys or perishable candy. Each box should be tagged with sex and age of intended recipient. Each box shipped requires \$5 to cover shipping. Any donations to help with shipping should be made out to "Samaritans Purse". These will be delivered to the Duncan Shoebox handling center.
 X-Spam-Status: No, hits=3.8 required=5
 tests=ASCII_FORM_ENTRY,BIG_FONT,CLICK_BELOW,CLICK_HERE_LINK,DEAR_SOMEBODY,EXTRA_MPART_TYPE, SPAM_PHRASE_01_02,SUBJECT_MONTH,SUBJECT_MONTH_2,SUBJ_HAS_SPACES,WEB_BUGS
 *Scanned-By: MIMEDefang 2.21 (www . roaringpenguin . com / mimedefang)

Dear John,

I was reading the TIRRA minutes and am concerned about the item regarding the community trail. They mention that equestrian use of Lawrence Trail may not be allowed.

Lawrence Trail, of which the community trail is part, has run from North Cove Road to Kufra Canal for the past century. It was built by horses and used by horses for the first half. The Hunters, the Lawrence brothers and others used the trail as access from one side of the island to the other. The Lawrence brothers kept their horses at the Kufra end and hauled goods using a wagon via the trail that would later bear their name. The trail was used for horse logging and later for the trucks and skidders that would be used. It has been kept open by the property owners and the trail users, for the most part.

As a ten year old, I can remember going on Lawrence Trail, "by the school", to hike down to Kufra Canal for picnics. Later I would ride Jo Ateah's pony, Pharoah, down that same trail. Little did I know at the time that I would one day own property alongside Lawrence Trail, and would use it often for walking and riding.

In the late 70's, the North American Indian Mission developed the land at the start of Lawrence Trail. That part of the trail became a road and was renamed "Mission Road".

Our property includes the head of the remaining Lawrence Trail. The next section is owned by the descendents of Rupert & Laura Forbes and the third section is now what is called "The Community Trail". The last section is now a roadway for Meadow Valley Properties.

As the only property owners that are adjacent residents to Lawrence Trail, we are very aware of the use of the trail.

Horses have never been a problem.

Our biggest fear and deterrent from using the trail is motorbikes and ATV's. As Lawrence Trail is still an access for one side to the other, people use these machines to get from one end to the other without taking their unlicensed and disallowed bikes on the public roads. They have left them in the woods while they attend fire practice, community hall events, work or to go to the ferry. Most of the drivers seem to find muddy conditions enjoyable. The fear of having these machines on the trail is that they cannot hear you over their engines and therefore see you far too late. You can hear them long before they reach you but you cannot let them know that you are there! Another fear is sparks from their engines in the tinder dry woods. Twice, while riding, I have found small fires beside the trail. Luckily, because I was out for a ride, I was there to put them out.

I hope that in the process of regulating the community portion of Lawrence Trail, the the four horse owners on the island are consulted prior to being disallowed. Paranoia of what might happen, often prevents responsible, enjoyable use. Never have I had someone approach

me on the trail full of fear and concern, they only want to touch and talk to my horse! If there is a problem that is thought to be created by equestrian use, could we not communicate those concerns to the few people involved? I am sure that we would all like to pitch in to keep the trail useable and safe. If one section becomes muddy, riders tend to ride around it slowly, and not create a messier situation.

I know of five significant trail systems that allow equestrian traffic: Pacific Spirit Park, Vancouver; Stanley Park, Vancouver; Galloping Goose Trail, Victoria; Beaver Lake Park, Victoria, and The Transcanada Trail, Canada. I have been fortunate to have ridden three of these.

I sincerely hope that Lawrence Trail will continue to be an access from Mission Road through to Kufra Canal, as it has been for the past hundred years. As a trail user I appreciate the fact that the other property owners of the island's trail system are amenable to others using the trails. As a property owner, I enjoy knowing that the trail is being used and is part of our community. In fact why not give it a historical community name such as The Lawrence Community Trail, after all, lots of communities have community trails.

If you would like to see the remains of the Lawrence brothers' wagon, it lies derelict on our property and we would be happy to show it to you.

Sincerely,

Ann Dickie
Lawrence Spring Farm
Lot 294
Mission Road
Thetis Island

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