



# DEAN PARK ESTATES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

December, 2022 NEWSLETTER No. 88

## New North Saanich Mayor & Council

*Continued from front page:*

In his inaugural address, Mayor Jones stated he was looking forward to working closely with the Council (made up of three new councillors and three returning councillors), with the staff and with local First Nation communities to represent and serve ALL residents of North Saanich. He pledged to respect the mandate from the election to maintain North Saanich as a rural oasis and move forward with growth in a sustainable way. He plans to utilize local assets to develop a new vision for the OCP, the tree by-law, affordable housing, and water front properties as they prepare for sea level rise and global warming. He pledged to communicate with residents in a timely and open manner and to listen to their concerns.

## Former DPECA Executive Members Elected to North Saanich Mayor & Council

Congratulations to Peter Jones (former DPECA President) on his election to North Saanich Mayor and to Irene McConkey who was elected to North Saanich Council (after serving on the DPECA Executive for many years). They were both sworn in to their new positions recently on Nov. 7. To avoid any conflicts of interest both of them had stepped away from their positions during the campaign and now they have resigned from their positions on the DPECA Executive.



Mark your calendars! DPECA AGM - **Tuesday February 7, 2023, 7-9 pm**

Please plan to attend. Many important issues will be discussed and we need your input! Plus we will be electing new Executive team members.

**Location: McTavish Academy of Art - 1720 McTavish Rd. - Grand Gallery** (at the back of the building).

### Dean Park Estates Community Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

**\$25 Annual Household Membership Dues  
for January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 are now due.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

North Saanich, B. C. Postal Code: V8L-\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: DPECA, PO Box 52021, Sidney, BC V8L 5V9**

Include your Cheque payable to: DPECA.

OR

You can pay save paper, stamps and the environment by paying your membership dues on our website - <https://www.dpeca.ca>

Click on Membership, then on the "PayPal" link.

(If you don't have a "PayPal" account, you can use a credit card.)

## The Very Special Place Where We Live

In November 2020, a *History of Dean Park Estates* was printed in our newsletter. Today's article describes the significance of the area to the W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples. A third article will be published later that will provide more information on John Dean himself who donated his land to create the provincial park which is such an asset to all area residents.

The area on the top of Mount Newton and the surrounding area figure prominently in First Nations culture, especially to the W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples and it has been called ŁÁU,WELNEW for centuries. A wonderful fireside video of the legend being told to children by a local Elder can be found on this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APQJnL74e5o>

The legend tells of a great flood and how the people survived. Using a giant cedar rope, they tied their canoe to a large tree on the hill which was the highest point of land in the area. The ancestors were able to live there on dried salmon until the floodwaters subsided. Once they were safe, they named the place ŁÁU,WELNEW (which means Place of Refuge). Early descriptions of the mountain mention large rings of white stones placed there by the W̱SÁNEĆ people indicating it continued to be used for ceremonies and events. For more on the W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples, visit their website using this link. <https://wsanec.com/history-territory/#legend>

John Dean Provincial Park was created in 1921 but was renamed ŁÁU,WELNEW/John Dean Park after a request from ŁÁU,WELNEW Tribal School students in 2019. Here is a link that explains how that change was made. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/indigenous-john-dean-park-saanich-vancouver-island-legislature-1.5119986>

ŁÁU,WELNEW/John Dean Provincial Park protects one of the last stands of old-growth Douglas fir and Garry oak on the Saanich Peninsula. It is a popular destination for local residents, who visit the park to hike in a pristine wilderness environment and enjoy the spectacular views. In the spring, the park comes alive with a vivid display of wildflowers, including drifts of blue camas lilies, common red paintbrush, sea blush and shooting stars. From the top of Mount Newton you can watch as ravens, red-tailed hawks, bald eagles, and turkey vultures soar above. The summit of Mount Newton is an excellent location to watch the best sunsets on Vancouver Island.

We are grateful to live in such a special place. DPECA respectfully acknowledges the territory on which we live, work and play as the present and ancestral homelands of the W̱SÁNEĆ nations. The W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples have lived on this land since time immemorial. <https://wsanec.com/>

## SUITES and RENTALS in DEAN PARK ESTATES

Every lot in Dean Park Estates is zoned as a "single family dwelling". Also, the DPE Schedule of Restrictions that we all signed when purchasing our homes specifically bans secondary suites in all Dean Park Estates homes. Some confusion has arisen because the District of North Saanich modified its own policies on secondary suites in 2017. The change declared a district-wide policy allowing suites in all of North Saanich as long as they meet construction guidelines and approvals. Suites built *without* District of North Saanich approval and inspection could result in serious safety issues. Within Dean Park Estates, if a suite already exists and has been inspected and approved, an exception could be made if the suite is occupied by a family member. No other exemptions would be allowed and legal action could be brought by neighbours.

Renting your entire house to a single family IS ALLOWED but leases must demonstrate continuous non-transient occupation by the tenants. No short-term rentals, such as AIRB&B, VRBO or others are ever allowed because of the disturbance this causes to neighbours.

## SNOW ANGELS in DPE

Last winter after the unusually heavy snow fall, DPECA decided to start a SNOW ANGELS program to help neighbours who may be unable to clear their own driveways. Ensuring access to homes for emergency vehicles is essential for our elderly or disabled residents. A few residents have indicated that they may need assistance this winter and DPECA's role is merely to connect those in need of help with volunteers. No payment of volunteers is expected or should be offered. We are grateful for the response of volunteers already signed up. If you need help or can offer assistance, please let us know via the Contact Us form on our website.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The DPECA Executive has empty positions which need to be filled on an interim basis until new officers can be formally elected at the next AGM in early 2023. We also want to set up a working group of boat/RV owners and non-owners to discuss parking of these vehicles in DPE. However, any help at all would be appreciated. Please use the Contact Us form on the DPECA website - <https://www.dpeca.ca> to indicate your interest even if you don't have a specific position in mind. If you have an interest in ensuring that Dean Park Estates stays the great place to live that we all love, please consider volunteering to help out on the DPECA Executive.