

Park Timeline

October 2, 1895: John Dean purchased 100 acres on Lauwelnew (Mount Newton).

December 9, 1921: John Dean donated 80 acres to the Province to be preserved as parkland in perpetuity.

March 16, 1934: Park registered with an Indefeasible (irrevocable) Title, "Provincial Park".

October 1, 1936: Development of the trails began.

November 3, 1937: Abraham Collins donated 1.84 acres for the King Road (renamed Dean Park Road) right-of-way.

May 14, 1938: Public gathering to celebrate the opening of Dean Park.

June 14, 1939: Abraham Collins donated 2.76 acres to the Park.

August 26, 1943: After his death, the Province purchased John Dean's remaining 20 acres.

December 14, 1940: John Dean Park classified as a Class A Provincial Park.

April 1, 1957: Park renamed as John Dean Provincial Park.

October 17, 1960: Land donations from Barret Montfort, Sydney Pickles and Ruth Woodward (256.8 acres) officially added to the Park.

May 10, 1984: The *Friends of John Dean Park Society* established. Edo Nyland, a charter member, is still actively involved.

August 10, 1989: The *Friends* achieved the transfer of Crown land (46.95 acres) to the Park.

May 11, 2013: The *Friends* unveiled an interpretive display commemorating John Dean at Illahie, the site of his cabin.

Friends of John Dean Park Society

Membership Form

Consider joining the *Friends* to help preserve B.C.'s oldest donated park

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ PC: _____

Email (optional): _____

Annual Membership Fees Life \$100

Single Student Family

\$10 \$5 \$15

The *Friends*, a registered Federal charity, issue tax receipts for donations. (# 88661 7232 RR001)

Please send a completed membership form with dues and/or donation to:

Friends of John Dean Park Society
P.O. Box 13

Saanichton, BC V8M 2C3

Make cheques payable to:

Friends of John Dean Park Society

Members receive a detailed trail map, newsletters, access to park information, and have an avenue to report concerns.

We speak on behalf of the Park and its heritage, conduct studies on and foster public awareness of its flora, fauna, geology and history, and notify BC Parks of any damage to facilities, washouts, fallen trees on trails, unauthorized use, etc. The more members monitoring the trails, the sooner we are able to inform BC Parks and keep the trails in pristine condition.

John Dean Provincial Park



Photo courtesy John Dean Nature House

John Dean was a contractor, civic leader, realtor, world traveller and the first person to donate land for a Provincial park. During his life, he was known as Victoria's *Ambassador of Goodwill*.

John was born on December 17, 1850 in Cheshire, England. He died on March 28, 1943 in Vancouver and was buried in Ross Bay Cemetery, Victoria, BC.

Friends of John Dean Park Society

Making of the Park

John Dean's donation of land was just the beginning of what has become the Park we see today. Over the years, additional land donations expanded its size (now 427 acres) and many people worked tirelessly or volunteered their time to preserve the beauty of the Park and make the trails more accessible and enjoyable for visitors.

Bob Boyd

From 1937 to 1939, Boyd supervised nearly 100 men under the Young Foresters' Training Plan, a Federal work relief program created during the Great Depression (1929-1939). Using only simple hand tools (pickaxes, shovels and wheelbarrows), these men built the main access road and trail system, including the stone entrance pillars and the many dry stone walls and staircases seen along the access road and trails. The 40 steps at Boyd's Climb are an example of their work.

Freeman King (Skipper)

Freeman King and the Sidney Scout troop he founded were among the Park's first volunteers. In the early 1930s, they cleared the picnic area located just below the parking lot. From the picnic area, follow Skipper's Path through old growth forest and past the scenic Duck Pond, also known as the Lily Pond.

Abraham Collins

The viewing platform at the summit was constructed on the 2.76 acres that Abraham Collins donated on June 14, 1939. The lookout provides scenic glimpses of the North Shore Coastal Mountains and Gulf islands to the North, and Mount Baker in the East. Collins also donated land for the King Road right-of-way (November 3, 1937, 1.84 acres) and for the summit right-of-way (April 24, 1939, .86 acres).

Barret Montfort

The longest trail in the Park is named after the man who, on January 11, 1960, donated the north block (159.6 acres) to the Park. To explore the lower portion, start from the Park's northern entrance, accessed at the end of Carmanah Terrace. Follow the trail as it runs along the mountain's eastern slope, crosses Dean Park Road, passes under Pickles' Bluff and ends at Southeast Junction (the junction of Lauwelnew, Woodward and Wickens' Trails). As you traverse the Barret Montfort Trail, look east through the trees for vistas of the Gulf Islands and Central Saanich. To explore the upper portion of the north block, follow the Slektain Trail from the northern entrance through the Park to Cougar Hollow East.

Sydney Pickles

Pickles' Bluff sits atop the 18.9 acres Pickles donated on October 13, 1959. Accessed from the summit using Lookout Trail, the Bluff provides a magnificent panoramic view from Mount Baker in the East to the Olympic Mountains in the South. Lauwelnew Trail can be taken to explore the south-east slope of his donation.

Ruth Woodward

The Woodward Trail (Woodward's Department Stores 1892-1993), runs through the 80.1 acres she donated on September 28, 1959. It starts at the West Viewpoint Trail, meanders through the forest in an easterly direction, and joins the Barret Montfort Trail at Southeast Junction. Enjoy views of dense forest, tangled undergrowth and marvelous vistas as the trail passes ponds, cliffs, and flower meadows. Surveyors' or Thomson Cabin Trails can be taken to explore other areas of the land she donated.

Friends of John Dean Park Society

The *Friends* are dedicated to ensuring the Park retains, in perpetuity, its status as a Class A Provincial Park, and is handed onto the next generation in better condition than it was received. In co-operation with BC Parks, the *Friends* have become the "eyes and ears" of the Park.