

Stuff relating to the naming of Descanso Bay Park on Gabriola Island. A pretty awful choice of name.

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Sunder, July 13, 2001  
Dear Editor

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I gather that the Coastal Community Credit Union would like the park named after them, and given their generous support for the project, some will have no problem with that. However, I'd like to propose an alternative way of choosing the park's name. How about we sell votes for the name? Contributors to the yet-to-be-established Gabriola Parks Acquisition Fund get one vote for each dollar contributed.

My money is on "Wenthuysen Park"--Wenthuysen was the original Spanish name for the area and dates back to 1791---but I'll bet "McDougall Park", or "Yogi Park", would give that choice some competition. We could even enter "Sea View Park" or "Bernie Sterling Park" (*sic*) as candidates, just to persuade the unconvinced, and those that can spell, that donations are really necessary.

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Dear Mr. Doe,

I was glad to read of your support for the park acquisition proposal for the Credit Union property. I have received only positive comments regarding this matter. We are about to start a petition to show support for a referendum to borrow up to \$500,000. I have asked RDN staff to make the arrangements to hold a referendum sometime this November. This would not stop us from also doing a fund raising drive and your suggestion is certainly a good one. I don't think the Credit Union expects this park to be called the 'Credit Union Park' but they do wish to be mentioned in some form. I do have one minor problem with your letter and that is the mention of 'Bernie Sperling Park'. I like to keep a low profile and fade into the background and do the work that is required. Thank-you again for your support. Thanks.

Berni

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Sunder, July 18, 2002  
Dear editor

I am very disappointed to learn that the RDN is proposing to name the new park on Gabriola (the old Credit Union property) "Descanso Park". This very unimaginative choice has been made without consultation, so far as I am aware, with either Gabriolans or the Snuneymuxw.

The Spanish "Cala del Descanso", named in 1792, is Pilot Bay. What we call Descanso Bay and the Northumberland Channel was named by the earlier Spanish expedition of 1791, "Wenthuysen". The Hudson's Bay Company also had names for several features in the area including Rocky Bay, Schooner Point, Arbutus Point, Howes Point, etc. For a while, Rocky Bay was also known as Knight Bay. The name of the major Snuneymuxw village in Taylor Bay is also known and I've no doubt the SFN could come up with far more interesting suggestions. What a bad choice! Even Yogi Park would have been better.

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I recall receiving a phone call from the RDN to the effect that there were rules and regulations about choice of name. One can't just choose names just because people like them.