

BACKGROUNDER

Mount Work Regional Park

Mount Work is one of the largest regional parks, and is the dominant hill on the horizon from many vantage points in Saanich, Victoria and the Saanich Peninsula. This popular recreation spot features three freshwater lakes - Durrance, Fork and Pease - for swimming, canoeing and fishing and 11km of trails through forest to the summit (449m) of Mount Work. It also offers a separate area of multi-use trails open to mountain biking. Mount Work receives more than 195,000 visits annually. This latest addition brings the park size to approximately 730 hectares.



Photo Russ Kinghorn

Russ Kinghorn and Sharon Macauley sold the land being added to the park to the CRD. It has been in the Kinghorn family for six decades. "In the early years, we cleared old logging roads and planted hundreds of trees as our father, Jim, was a professional forester. He felt passionately about maintaining forest land for both ecological and forest harvest values, which is why we called it 'The Tree Farm'", said Russ. "These values included tending and harvesting Christmas trees in the '60s and '70s, cutting firewood from forest thinnings, and removing diseased trees for forest health. Dad did this while improving access roads, ditches and culverts, and deactivating roads in sensitive areas. He also built a cabin on the property to the south that became part of the park in 2008. We sincerely hope that all citizens enjoy this wonderful wilderness!"

Land Acquisition Fund

The 28-hectare parcel of land was acquired through the Regional Park [Land Acquisition Fund](#). Monies for the fund are collected through municipal property taxes. It is currently set at a rate of \$20 per average household assessed value. The CRD, with the support of our partners, has acquired more than 4,100 hectares of land valued at over \$54 million through the Land Acquisition Fund since it was established in 2000. In that time the regional park system has grown from 8,400 hectares to 13,000 hectares. The fund is set to expire in 2019. The CRD Regional Parks Committee and Board will determine, with input from the public, if the fund will be renewed.