

## JOYCE LOKWOOD COMMUNITY PARK.

By Joyce White and Ivan Bulic.

Joyce Lockwood Community Park is located at the end of Whalebone Drive.

Long before the Internet, and a time when the Flying Shingle was a monthly paper, Gabriolans gathered around mail box notice boards to find out what was happening in their Community. Entertainment notices, meetings, garage sales, services, lost pets etc., these boards kept us informed. The boards were constructed and installed by the late Joyce Lockwood.

Joyce was a familiar figure around Gabriola during the nineteen eighties' driving her car with its familiar license plate 'Daxies', clearing the ditches of debris and combing for discarded bottles. The liquor bottles were returned to the B.C. Government Liquor store (located then at the B and K Centre, now known as Twin Beaches); for refunds. The pop bottles went to the small grocery stores on the Island, also for refunds. With the money garnered from the returned bottles, Joyce bought the lumber, built the notice boards and then hammered them into the ground alongside the mail boxes. Even today, with communication at the click of a button, people still check the boards for information.

Before retirement Joyce was employed by British Columbia Hydro as a meter reader; although Joyce never did really retire. She served as a founding member of the Gabriola Golf Club and took her turn, along with others volunteers, clearing the area of rocks in preparation for construction of fairways and greens.

She was also a director of the Regional District of Nanaimo, serving one term as Gabriola's representative.

Joyce, a longtime member of the Gabriola Historical and Museum Society, was president of the Society from February 1994 until December 1994, a time when the museum building was under construction. She spent every possible day at the site, supporting the volunteer builders and providing them with coffee and cookies. When a decision was made to face the entrance with Gabriola bricks a request was made to the community for brick donations. During a 1994 interview Joyce said we had "bricks coming out of our ears". She, and the late Vera Wayman, drove all over the Island to collect bricks from Gabriolans who were digging up patios, dismantling chimneys, and finding bricks under blackberry bushes.

Unfortunately Joyce passed away suddenly in December 1994 before completion of the Museum building. A memorial service was held in her honour at the Community Hall. The Hall was packed with people celebrating the life of Joyce and telling anecdotes demonstrating her unique character and the footprint she left. One person recalled that at one time Joyce was requested to

please not clean the ditches for two weeks; as this was to be the project of a group of schoolchildren.

Joyce was a one woman dynamo. Where did the licence plate name “Daxies” originate? She was the owner of two dachshunds.