

newsletter

NUMBER 3 • WINTER 2010

YEAR END REVIEW

Secretary's Report

A healthy membership - it has been an exciting year for the SHCA with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) being an example of how engaged/involved our community truly is. Our membership numbers exceeded 120 going into the AGM and increased afterward. This represents a record number and a very healthy percentage of the entire Sandy Hook community. A healthy membership supports the Board when advocating for the community with the District of Sechelt, the Sunshine Coast Regional Authority, and other groups. Advocating for the community works best when we have a Board which represents the diverse community we live in and our Board has that with great volunteers from all walks of life and all areas of our community. We ended the AGM with 12 Board members – the maximum and the first time that this Board member has seen this. The Board realizes that it needs to constantly reach out to the community – to improve understanding of what our community wants. Casual conversations and surveys are effective at this. Please let your Board members know what you think. Catch the ear of a Board member while socializing, by mailing a letter, by sending an email or by visiting our web site at www.sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca. Valerie and I welcome you all to attend the upcoming SHCA Meet and Greet which is being held at our home this year on January 29th, 2011.

Thanks for the support everyone - have a wonderful holiday season!

Peter Harvey

Treasurer's Report

A balanced budget - our dues income to Oct 1, 2010 was \$1130.00. The current board's policy is to not spend more than we bring each year through membership dues and we have largely done that. The money has been spent on the following: Annual Meet & Greet held in January, 2010 29% (\$334); Hidden Grove 33% (\$371), Coast Ride 14% (\$165), and other events including our AGM and Summer Picnic. The net result so far is an over-expenditure of \$3. The board cares about how we spend your money and appreciate any comments you may have. To date our surplus is \$3,867.

Happy holidays to all and all the best in 2011.

Harold Fletcher

2010 SHCA BOARD MEMBERS

Ivana Cappelletto, Rupert Clark, Kirk Exner (President), Harold Fletcher (Treasurer), Peter Harvey (Secretary), Michael Hertz, Anne Hutchinson, Valerie Nash, Eugene Scanlan, Melanie Vallieres, Gray Waddell (Vice President)

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WHAT'S NEW IN "THE HOOK"

- Due to the dedicated efforts of the Hidden Grove Committee and in association with Sechelt Community Forest we are delighted to let you know that Hidden Grove now has a new (and well used) parking area. Thanks to everyone involved for making that happen. We'd like to recognize Ken Hall, Louis Janke and Norm Towle for their contributions to Hidden Grove. For more information visit the Hidden Grove website at www.hiddengrove.net.

- One of the original cabins in Lower Sandy Hook was crushed by a falling fir tree during a windstorm in mid-November. The cabin was home to Rick Hamilton who narrowly escaped major injury. Sandy Hook residents have rallied their support for Mr. Hamilton - special thanks to Neil at Clayton's Heritage Market for supplying fruit, meat and cheese plates for the SHCA disaster relief get together. A reminder to all to seek the opinion of a professional arborist if you have any large trees located adjacent to your home. And make sure that you have adequate home and contents insurance in case of disaster.

- Our summer picnic was well attended and everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks to Cody Slevin for organizing games for the kids; thanks to Terry Nichol and his son for donating and barbecuing the delicious Johnsonville Bratwurst sausages; and, thanks to the various fine musicians who performed "Live at the Fish Tail".

- The first annual Sandy Hook Sailing Contest was hosted by Ivana Cappelletto, Paul Manson, Peter Harvey and Rupert Clark on September 6th, 2010 – special thanks for organizing the event.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Living in a rural environment and so close to nature is a gift that all Sandy Hookers welcome and respect. Recently, a cougar has been seen in Sandy Hook so please keep alert when hiking or walking alone in our neighbourhood. Conflicts between human beings and cougars are extremely rare, in the past 100 years only 5 people have been killed by cougar attacks in B.C. - the odds of being killed by lightning are actually higher! The following information is from the Government of B.C. website:

If you encounter a cougar:

- Never approach a cougar. Although cougars will normally avoid a confrontation, all cougars are unpredictable. A cougar feeding on a kill may be dangerous.
- Always give a cougar an avenue of escape. Stay calm. Talk to the cougar in a confident voice.
- Pick all children up off the ground immediately. Children frighten easily and their rapid movements may provoke an attack.
- Do all you can to make yourself "look big".
- Do not turn your back on the cougar. Face the cougar and remain upright. Do not run. Try to back away from the cougar slowly. Sudden movement or flight may trigger an instinctive attack.

If a cougar behaves aggressively:

- Arm yourself with a large stick, throw rocks and speak in a firm loud voice. Convince the cougar that you are a potential threat and not prey.
- If a cougar attacks, fight back! Many people have survived cougar attacks by fighting back with anything, including rocks, sticks, bare fists, and fishing poles.