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SANDY HOOK COMMUNITY ASSOC.,  
NEWSLETTER: SEPT., 2000 - ISSUE #5

(TO READ GO TO 'VIEW' AND CLICK 'SPIRCE' AND IT WILL COME UP IN NOTEBOOK)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Sandra Sharkey

well, it's the end of another lovely day in Sandy Hook and as the summer draws to a close, I am reminded of our good fortune in living here. Our Annual Picnic in Sandy Hook Park was a great success thanks to the committee consisting of Heather Waddell, Sherrill D'Arcy, Patti Gibson, Amber Strom and your Board members. We would like to extend a special thanks to Jamie & Amber, who despite having to tend to their new baby, organized and ran the games and prize awards. Amber's sister Coral did a great job of face painting and her grandma and "Klutz" the clown (grandpa), entertained the children..he makes great balloon animals. Our M.C. was Don Brinton, who along with our local entertainer, Rick Hamilton, kept everything rolling smoothly. Thanks also to those of you who stayed to help with the cleanup. Approx. 75 people turned up for this fun event and it seemed like everyone had a great time. Thanks to everyone who brought all those yummy dishes for the potluck dinner.

Everyone will have noticed that CAL has resumed the gravel hauling and we are back to the dusty\wet road. For my part, it's worth creeping along that section of road so I don't have to wash my car every time I go to town. (I am amazed someone didn't pick up the ball this summer when it was at its worst and set up another temporary car wash.)

On Saturday, Sept. 16th, we had the first of two preliminary meetings for Neighbourhood Preparedness in the home of Lynne and Tom Nash. A neighbourhood, for preparedness purposes, consists of an area of homes that can easily see or contact one another so we selected Coracle Place and Drive, Shrimp Way and Ark Road. Patricia Harvey, the facilitator for the program, attended this meeting and provided informative hand outs and advice. She will also attend the next one to be held on November 11th, same time, same place. We came away from this meeting with a little homework to do...to prepare ourselves within our own homes and, hopefully, everyone has started, if not finished, that project.

We expect that there will be quite a few homes not represented at these meetings because they are "weekenders". However, those of us who live here will have to be able to take care of ourselves and assist our neighbours if our access road is out or blocked in the event of a forest fire or an earthquake. If you are unable to attend the meetings and wish to have the information, just drop us a line or visit the Sandy Hook web site.

Here is a volunteer opportunity. It is our plan to continue to identify neighbourhoods within the Hook for our emergency programs and I would appreciate offers from anyone who would be willing to host the meetings in their neighbourhood. You could expect an attendance of 20 to 25 people and provide coffee, tea or juice.

Wishing you all a pleasant "fall" in this, the loveliest of places to live.

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PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Gray Waddell

NO NAME PARK UPDATE....If you want to have a look at "no-name" park, just go up Skookumchuk, off Deerhorn, until you reach Mt. Richardson Rd. Stand on Mt. Richardson and look up the inlet. What do you see? Some mail boxes backed by a wall of young maples, alders and wild cherry trees. That is our public park and it runs from there down to Deerhorn. It's not huge.

In our December, 1999 letter to the new District Administrator, our Board mentioned this park and called it "impossible and unsightly as a park". We said

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"we would like to see a few of the weed trees cleared and the area made more parklike and accessible". We also said that we were prepared to undertake the task with volunteer resources.

Since then, there have been more discussions at Board level and with the Engineering folks at District. Also, two board members traversed the park (with great difficulty) and discovered dense blackberry growth along with signs of bear presence. District has done a survey to identify the boundaries.

At this time, your Board proposes to remove the blackberry bushes as the first step to discourage bears. The next step would be to construct a trail so that people could enjoy the bird life that is so abundant in there. Rest assured that nothing will be done without the okay of the owners, i.e. the District of Sechelt, from whom we expect to receive some help in the removal of debris.

Comments/suggestions are invited. Write to the Community Assoc. or e-mail "darcy\_bob@sunshine.net". It's your park too.

PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY: Folks who don't get down to the Coracle end of the Hook very often, will be interested to learn that Coracle Drive was resurfaced this summer, as was Klahanie. Total cost was in excess of \$90,000. While they were at it, the District levelled off the bad dips at the upper end of Sandy Hook Rd. In addition, Council approved two new stop signs, one at the high profile intersection where Deerhorn meets Skookumchuk at the kiddies park and playground. Partly, as fall-out from our Sandy Hook Wish List, along with an excellent relationship with Engineering staff at District, Sandy Hook does get some of the things the Board requests but Board members can't be aware of everything. If there is something that you think needs attention, please drop us a line.

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SECHELT HERITAGE FOREST TRAILBUILDERS: Gertrude Pacific

The Forest Committee of the Sandy Hook Comm. Assoc. was pleasantly surprised to receive a Certificate of Appreciation "in recognition of contributions to Forest Recreation" signed by Greg Hemphill, District Manager of the Sunshine Coast Forest District. It was hand delivered by Ferd Hamre, Operations Manager, who, among his many other duties, directs the recreation activities within this forest district. It is the Ministry of Forests that has supplied the yellow cedar bridge in the centre of the forest as well as the wonderful curving steps at the Forest Road trailhead, and the dark brown and white signs on Sechelt Inlet Road.

Our fall/winter program, now beginning, will focus on installing signage for the many new trails created last season. We will also refine some of the still rough sections. We have a loyal core of trailbuilders and are always happy to see new faces at our 2 hour work parties from 10am to 12 noon on Sundays. (We break for coffee and treats courtesy of our volunteers). If you would like to be part of this team, please call 885-3797. Besides the camaraderie, it is rewarding to be outside in the dreary winter months doing something fun and also useful for everyone.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S NOTES & COMMENTS: Julie Towle

Some time ago, we received a wonderful letter from one of our part time residents that we would like to share with you:

The Sandy Hook Community: A Permanent Part-timer's Perspective:

It's one of the delights of a long time familiarity with Sandy Hook, to see

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how our Assoc. has grown over the years to have a regular newsletter, and to see that it is delivered to all residents, regardless of membership status.

This practice attests to an inclusive and mutually supportive community philosophy, well worth having worked towards. Thanks to those who choose to spend the time it takes to maintain the work of a Comm. Assoc. and to develop and deliver the newsletter.

I am prompted to recall two memories as I write this. The first concerns our community response to a very early shared need: the creation of the launching ramp and the coincident creation of the Sandy Hook Comm. Assoc. The first phase of the ramp was the reason for our first coming together to form the SHCA. The launching ramp and its subsequent extensions were built by donations of the time, the fees, and the hard work of those early members of this Assoc.

The second memory highlights a much more recent example of our regard for each other. One spring, just a few years ago, work was planned to be done beside the launching lane where many residents "parked" their boats. The work would necessitate removal of those small craft. The Newsletter which went out that spring, informed us all of the plans, and an offer was included, directed at us part-timers: anyone who would not be at Sandy Hook to move their boat was asked to let the writer know and arrangements would be made to move the boats for us. That was a practical and thoughtful act of kindness.

These memories confirm for me that Sandy Hook is the special place that it is, not only because of its natural beauty but also because of the beauty of human nature. I'm glad I still get to come here!.

Signed: Kathleen Scales

Believe me, to receive a letter like this really boosts our pride and tends to over-ride some of the negative comments we hear once in a while. Thank you Kathleen.

Just a comment regarding Gray's report and the kiddies park new stop sign. I live right by the park and this past spring and summer I witnessed a dozen near misses with little ones running out on the road after a ball while a car or truck was barreling down Skookumchuk. There is NO way that vehicle could have slowed down in time if a child was out on the road. Cars also speed along Deerhorn driving past the park so it is just as dangerous there. Imagine if that was you and you hit a child. Imagine if that child was injured, maimed, or worse. Could you live with that for the rest of your life??? PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

Because of Newsletter space, we had to downsize the impressive Certificate of Appreciation Gertrude wrote about. It is quite large and I'm sure you will join with me in thanking all the volunteers who have worked on this project the past few years. If you haven't been through the Sechelt Heritage Forest, you are missing a beautiful walk in a very special part of our community.

Need a giggle....."A young couple invited their parson for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having. "Goat" the little boy replied. "Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth. "Are you sure about that?" "Yep", said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, "Might as well have the old goat for dinner today as any other day".

And on the same note....St. Peter halted a man at the entrance to heaven. "You've told too many lies to be permitted in here", he said. "Have a heart",

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replied the man. "Remember, you were once a fisherman yourself".

Last, but certainly not least, a big community "THANK YOU" to those wonderful people who trek up and down all our driveways delivering the newsletter to everyone.

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