



# Sandy Hook Community Association

5916 Skookumchuk Road, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4

E mail: [sandyhook@sechelt.net](mailto:sandyhook@sechelt.net) Web Site [www.sechelt.net](http://www.sechelt.net)

Number-1 January 2007

## YOUR OFFICERS

### President

Peter Harvey—885-4833

### Vice President

Sue Jackel—885-2348

### Secretary/Treasurer

Bob D'Arcy—885-5766

### Past President

Joan Pedlar—885-7680

### Public Works Director

Bruce Woodburn—885-9402

### At Large

Gray Waddell—885-5606

Mike Sutcliffe—740-8133

## Happy New Year—a bit late but this is our first newsletter of 2007!

Your Association has loads of work already lined up for 2007 and there is lots going on to pay attention to. Through this letter we try to help you stay on top a bit with something you can put right on the breakfast table to read. For real detail on SHCA activities we recommend the website [www.sechelt.net](http://www.sechelt.net) where minutes of the board meetings are posted each month and you can see what is going on with other associations in the District as well.

We hope everyone got through the stormy season without any serious permanent damage. Please remember that if you are alone and need some help you should not hesitate to call one of the board members. They will act quickly to organize something.

You will see that in this newsletter we can only give you a little sampling of all that is happening. Again, the website gives you details or call a board member for more. Thanks to all of you for your kind support and encouragement throughout 2006. It was a busy year.

## Some Items on our plate right now

- Liaising with the owners of the property at the end of Bob Road to assist in Sechelt Heritage Forest access.
- Approaching the district for an Official Community/ Neighbourhood Plan for Sandy Hook
- Meeting and representations to improve Sandy Hook Park and particularly the entrance
- In committee with other associations to address the new Publico development issues
- Preparing new signage for both Sechelt Heritage Forest and Hidden Grove
- Busy, busy, busy trying to keep the trails clear from all the fallen trees

- We have expressed our concerns about the flooding on Sandy Hook Road where Seaview joins in
- Supporting Village Resident Association position on the big condo proposed for downtown
- Looking at options for a community hall in the future
- Investigating problems with long term storage of vehicles on Sandy Hook residential roads and allowances.

**IMPORTANT:-** Please note that our AGM will be coming up later in the spring and we always welcome new directors to the board. Take a look at your schedules and see if you might fit in about one evening meeting a month to act as a director and help keep Sandy Hook nice. It is fun and social and gives you a warm and fuzzy feeling. Please call one of the current board to chat about this.

# Membership Renewal

It is that time again and we need your renewal to carry on all the jobs your association have undertaken. We just barely break even—last year we ended up just \$89 in the black. Last year we had 124 paid up members and with your help we can exceed that easily. With more members we get more attention when we need things done for the parks, roads or whatever. **Oh, yes! You can join on line too using your credit card.**

**Sandy Hook Community Association—Annual Membership (Jan-Dec) \$10.00 per person**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy Hook Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email (PRINT CLEARLY—used for receipt) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose cheque for dues and either drop in the special mail box at the Tot Park (Deerhorn/Skookumchuk) OR Mail to: Sandy Hook Community Association 5916 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4 OR pay online [www.sechelt.net](http://www.sechelt.net)

## The Housing Developments

**It is almost impossible to keep up.** Here are some of the ones we are following just on our east side of the Inlet

**Onni**—Maybe 32 homes along from the Blue Heron or maybe some 100 condos and townhouses, depending on the sewer situation. Still being debated as we go to press.

**Gow Pit Development**—above the East Porpoise Bay community with about 65 homes. Pretty well approved to go ahead with septic systems.

**SilverBack**—The BIG one. The Plan proposes 1,600 residential dwelling units, comprised of single family and multiple family homes of multi-storey short term rental stratas; a 120 room lodge/hotel; 3,000 square metre (32,291 sq.ft.) of commercial floor space and a 66 hectare (163 acre) signature golf course with club house. It has gone through third reading approval by your Council in spite of literally 100's of objections from the public and community associations. (*Special page on website with loads of detail and copies of community association submissions*)

**Publico Developments**—as we go to press we have just received the referral paper on this proposed 121 home development this side (south) of Tuwanek. The rough plan does not appear very appealing and again has sewer issues. Your association is joining with others to present some sort of common front but the process has just started. (*The complete referral document is on the website to view.*)

### SUMMARY

If you add up all the above you get about 1900 new homes in all potentially housing over 4000 souls. All access is by the current Sechelt Inlet Road with little thought or consideration for substantial improvements or an emergency

*"right of way already exists and is sufficient to accommodate the plan expansion of bicycle lanes."* - from SilverBack Corp. in response to public questions about widening the road.

alternate. We are trying to influence your Council but need your active support. If you turn up and speak at public hearings then it adds weight to the community presentations.

## The Meet and Greet

Sandy Hookers do enjoy a 'get-together' and showed up over 40 strong on December 15th for the 4th M&G at the Arts Centre. While just mingling was the original goal a highlight of the evening was the announcement that your Association was naming the main trail through the Sechelt Heritage Forest after long time resident Gertrude Pacific. Gertrude was the moving force behind the formation of the Sechelt Heritage Forest, the Davis Brook restoration and is very active on the current Hidden Grove committee. President Harvey had the first trail marker there to show and to surprise Gertrude. It was a long overdue thank you and recognition. Special thanks to Joyce FitzPatrick who once again volunteered for the kitchen duty and arranged all the goodies. For those of you who missed the event be sure and come next time. (*A collection of pictures from the evening can be viewed on the website*)



## Hidden Grove

We are not much further ahead now from our last report but the work goes on. A meeting with the Mayor and some council members is in the offing soon and a new approach has been made to another department of the Province for assistance.

Cap College are still keen to utilize the Grove for some of their classes. Your trail builders have been busy with fallen timber in the SHF but will get to Hidden Grove as soon as they can.

(*More at [www.hiddengrove.info](http://www.hiddengrove.info)*)

## PRESIDENTIAL OBSERVATIONS

I am continually amazed at our community – it is truly special. I have seen my share of boring sub division type 'communities' from Toronto to San Diego and even further afield. Perhaps it is worth listing some of the reasons why Sandy Hook is so special;

### People

We have a diverse group of people here. We have cottagers, retired and semi-retired folks, families and more. We have B&B operations and folks renting their homes. We have people who have been here since 1963 when Sandy Hook was conceived as a cottage community and we have people who have just moved here (and to the coast). We have property owners from Alberta, and places East, California and places south, and further afield (Jakarta for example). We have people who want things to stay the same and we have people who want some things to be changed. We have environmentalists, resource harvesters and 'suites'. And we have all this in a little community a bit off the beaten path. Most people come here for the landscape but stay because of the people. If you do not feel 'connected' in Sandy Hook then please take some time to get out and walk about and say 'hi'.

### Landscape

Most people in Sandy Hook have some kind of view of the Inlet – and this combined with the way our community rises up from the water front is an eye catcher for certain. We have a very interesting diversity in building structures and we have been able to maintain some semblance of rural/cottage feeling despite our growth. Our parks and forests are jewels – whether you are one to use them or not I am sure everyone realizes how important they are in maintaining the feel of our community. Perhaps the most striking thing for me, as I write this, is the enthusiasm with which our volunteers work to protect our community even as growth sometimes seems to be knocking on our door like a bull dozer. Our volunteers can never make everyone happy but I never doubt their motives in trying to preserve the feel of our community. My hat is off to each and every one – past and present.

- Peter Harvey