



Sandy Hook Community Association

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The Great Community Hall Survey

No doubt you are all waiting with bated breath (whatever that really means) to read the results of the community wide survey conducted through July and August. The results are in and to date we had 75 respondents. That is a 33% response which is considered quite good for a mail in form. All the results do not add up to 75 as some failed to fill in certain parts.

Interest Level. Very Interested-28 Enough to help-11 and Forget it-34 so it was sort of 39 to 34. Pretty close although the "forget It" crowd were pretty loud. Many used large CAPS and scrawls across the page or long diatribes about the matter whereas the Interested group either just ticked the boxes or made short constructive comments.

From the interest question on it was mixed bag as sometimes the "Forget Its" filled in the boxes to express an opinion and sometimes did not fill in anything.

Type of Building. Only 4 were for the small picnic shelter—really just a slab. 11 thought the idea of a full picnic shelter was the best choice. The majority opted for something substantial with 23 for a real, full hall and 16 for the multi-use (including commercial building). This seems to put to rest for now that Sandy Hook wants to cut down on travel?

Location. Hidden Grove-20 Turnoff—16 SH Park-10 Deerhorn-12 Tot Park-19 so it was sort of 36 for up near the Inlet Road to 41 spread somewhere in the heart of Sandy Hook.

Activities, Educational and recreational uses and Community Association use are not worthwhile breaking out. Most of those who showed interest in the proposal at all just ticked every box. The "forget It" group either marked nothing or a selection.

Some suggestions were made for uses that were quite interesting including: polling booth for municipal elections; retreats with guests staying at local B&Bs; boutique for exchange of used clothing; centre for local disaster with a power generator.

Among those in favour some of the comments: We need a small store"; "I like an artsy educational focus"; "would like a tennis court too"

The "against" comments are too long and too many to quote as almost everyone who voted against also added a note to strengthen their case. Specific concerns centered on parking, noise, loss of small community feel, Taxes and more taxes.

Your association board passed a motion on August 20 reading; "that the results are reported in the next newsletter and that they are reserved for future evaluation and a possible revisit after an abeyance period of two or three years."

A man who throws dirt loses ground

OR

All sunshine makes a desert

Short Term Rental issues again.

There have been inquires about the rules governing Short Term Rentals (rental less than 30 consecutive days) in the community again. It appears that one or more new ones has popped up.

For those who have been around a few years you will remember that Sandy Hook voted 94.38% against allowing them. (Full report on the website in archives under letters.) The District went ahead and approved them anyway but with some rules and requiring a deposit and a license. If you have a complaint about how a licensed STR is running then let it be known. There is a form for your convenience in the drop down letter list on the Archives page of the Sandy Hook website under the heading Jan/05 STR_PDF. A summary of the rules is there too. Fill the form and send it to the District office.

If an illegal (unlicensed) STR is operating then advise the District bylaw officer directly (604-885-1986) to take action. There is a substantial fine per day.

It appears that the high real estate values have discouraged a proliferation of STRs as owners fear exposing very valuable homes to the problems of renters for just a weekend of fun.

One of the recent reports involved garbage put out by renters ignorant of the bear problem and a big bear taking advantage. We hope it does not get urbanized by this so it has to be destroyed. Other issues were over parking on the road and outside flood lights on for a week, day and night

STRs are a fact of our life right now but they must comply with rules to keep our community safe and nice. Most have been very good.

Membership Renewal

join on line too using

Have you paid up for the calendar year 2007? You can your credit card. www.sechelt.net

The 2007 Picnic—Hurrah!

Another success with about 40 in attendance. Down a bit so we know we need to improve the advertising. We found several people after who wanted to attend but who "forgot" or never noticed the event was on.



Gray Waddell—"The Chef"

A very interesting presentation was made by the Coast "Bear Aware" officer and the Conservation Officer. They do garbage inspection raids to see if neighbourhoods are attracting bears by putting out garbage early. Sandy Hook, take a bow as on two recent raids not one breach of the rule, "no garbage out until actual garbage day" was found. **SPECIAL THANKS** to the donors for this year's picnic; Claytons and Sheila Pope.

Seaview/Sandy Hook Road Issue

By the time you read this newsletter repairs and upgrades should be under way or done to stop the flood of water across the road and the threat to the road stability itself.

We have contacted the District repeatedly and keep getting assurances, but so far no action. If it is still unattended by the time of this newsletter, perhaps individual residents could telephone the District engineering staff to express their concern. (885-1 986) or email to info@district.sechelt.ca.



The "Problem" Bear

It appears that we have three bears who are more or less at home in upper Sandy Hook but the one became a problem a few weeks back by hanging out in the Tot Park and climbing up onto decks and balconies. Unfortunately it got serious enough that the Conservation Officer was called. He placed a trap several times but failed to catch the critter.

Since then the bear seems to have altered its behavior so the Officer has left for now.

If bear is trapped it is destroyed. Moving of bears to other locations is not longer practiced.

Tillicum Bay Newsletter?

The folks in Tillicum Bay do not participate in either the Sandy Hook or Tuwanek associations. Nor have they formed their own group.

In the interest of showing them what can go on with an association so that they may select one of the options Sandy Hook is delivering the next few newsletters to those homes "over there". Resident Rupert Clarke has volunteered to deliver and this issue is the first one.

Tillicum Bay, welcome to the readership list. We hope, through one route or the other, you get involved in the community association efforts.

Judicial Review of Council Activities

Your Association recently sent a letter endorsing and supporting an effort by a group of Village Association residents to seek a judicial review of the way the District Council apparently restricts transparency in developing policies and making decisions. The matter should be heard in the court sometime in October.

The Watershed Issue

Your Association moved unanimously that SHCA support a Sechelt Community Association Forum delegation to the Sechelt council meeting of September 5th with a reading of a letter encouraging the District to join in with the other local governments to stop the damage to our watershed. The Chapman Creek watershed supplies the water for Sandy Hook for most of the year and if you wish to learn more we encourage you to go the website www.yourwatershed.com (coincidentally maintained by a Sandy Hook board member)

A Sandy Hook Blog!

We want to remind you that President Peter Harvey is maintaining a Blog just for Sandy Hookers. Read it and contribute at www.sandyhook.ca. And... while you are looking for news of the community do not forget the main community association site at www.sechelt.net. For those who are savvy it now has an RSS feed to tell you when something new is posted.

Youth Exchange

Two Sandy Hook families are hosting 2 youths each for the next 3 months as part of a youth exchange program. Hilary/Dave and Peter/Valerie are hosting 1 out of province Canadian youth and 1 Mozambique youth. Maybe you should consider helping next year. Get in touch now for details.

Developments!

Members of your executive attend many District Council and Planning Committee meetings, trying to keep up on development applications and other issues that affect Sandy Hook. As of Sept. 18, there is no news to report on Silverback—the developer has not been heard from since early July. Several development applications are in process in East Porpoise Bay area, for about 80-100 units in total. So far no action on two development applications in Tuwanek, again for upwards of 100 units. We'll try to notify you if they reach committee or Council agendas, but sometimes the notice is very short—two or three days.