



# Sandy Hook Community Association

5916 Skookumchuk Road, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4

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

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## YOUR OFFICERS And Directors

### President

Gray Waddell—885-5606

### Vice President

Sue Jackel—885-2348

### Secretary/Treasurer

Bob D'Arcy—885-5766

### Past President

Joan Pedlar—885-7680

### Public Works Director

Mike Sutcliffe—740-8133

### At Large

Rupert Clark—885-5701

Jude Da Silva—885-3347

**President's Message** — Like the old saying goes... "It's like déjà vu all over again". Why do I say that? It's because as your new president for 2008/09 I've actually been here twice before. So, "how does the process work" you may well ask? Those who attended the AGM on June 6 will recall that a list of nominees for the Board were accepted by acclamation because the numbers were less than what the bylaws allow. It is then up to the Board to decide who they want to be Pres, V/Pres, Secretary and Treasurer (or Sec/Tres. in our case). This time it was done by email. I came back from off-coast on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> (another omen) to discover I'd been had-again! Only kidding! I had indicated willingness in advance. Sure be nice though if we could get more people interested in working for a better community instead of the same old faces and bodies.

Many thanks to those of you who turned out for the AGM. It was Peter Harvey's last swing at the cat and things went very smoothly. The presentation on Parks by guest speaker Councillor Darren Inkster was very well received and his patience in sitting through the meeting to deal with questions at the end was appreciated. Several excellent suggestions for the future were made by members.

As outgoing President, Peter gave a comprehensive report on the activities that the Association has been involved in over his term in office. I was sad to receive Peter's resignation from the board but he has lots of other things going on in his life.

We have plenty of projects to keep us busy in the months ahead. We will be keeping an eye on Council activities as in the past and will have a new Council to observe after November elections. We will be working with Planning staff toward developing an Official Community Plan - a first for Sandy Hook and Tuwanek.

Some good volunteers have stepped forward to work on a ride sharing scheme that has been researched and pursued by our tireless Sec/Tres Bob D'Arcy. The absence of a bus service is a real downer for many of our residents.

You will see some major changes taking place in the park at the launch ramp - new steps down to the water, removal of the gate, new signs. Hopefully people will realize it is public property and make use of it. Your Board has been working on these changes with the District Public Works and Parks staff for some time and appreciates all their support and assistance.

In this newsletter you will see reports on a few of the many other activities keeping your Association busy.

And stay tuned for a possible social event in September to help us get to know each other. Cheers, y'all.

*Gray Waddell.*

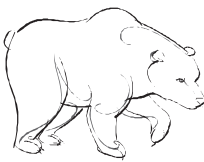
**Boat Launch**—just a reminder to those who have not registered their space and have a boat at the ramp—at the end of August the District will be hauling off those boats that seem to have no owners. The spaces will then be opened for others.



**No Picnic This Year?** - We have decided to forgo a picnic this year but if somebody would like to organize one let us know and we'll do what we can to help. Last year the turnout was disappointing. (Your Association does have a portable shelter for member use at events.)



**Busy Bear Season**—We have now counted a Mom bear with 3 cubs, another with 2 cubs, a 2 or 3 year old and a big guy all roaming around upper Sandy



Hook. The little guys sure are cute BUT:

- STAY AWAY AND DO NOT GET NEAR THE CUBS OR BETWEEN THEM AND MOM
- DO NOT PUT OUT GARBAGE (except on Tuesday Morning) OR SET UP TEMPTING COMPOST

**Fires**—A reminder that back yard burning is prohibited throughout Sechelt now and having a fire can



result in a pretty good fine. Worse it could result in a disaster. While it has been pretty wet up to now with a few hot days Sandy Hook turns into the perfect fire pile. A blaze near the bottom could sweep to the top in no time. We all enjoyed beach fires when we were kids and it seems a shame to come down on them now but we have a problem. Some irresponsible types are having beach bonfires often accompanied by drinking and leaving their fires still smoldering when they pack it in. On Porpoise Drive beach a fire was left smoldering right under the trees on the beach. We have to consider signage but the best bet is to make sure there is responsible supervision or no fires at all. Please act to protect Sandy Hook.

**The Car Sharing Survey**—Over 50 members responded to the survey to consider an organized car sharing or formalized hitch-hiking scheme for Sandy Hook—A Good Samaritan Program. Basically, drivers and riders would be registered



to indicate what community they are from and to relieve security concerns. The reaction to the idea was overwhelmingly positive.

#### Some Results:

94% - See it as a good idea and support it fully.

Once organized, would like it to include the other Inlet Road communities (East Porpoise Bay and Tuwanek) - 92%

88% agreed a one time fee for the setup costs but then there were a variety of responses as to whether that should be per person or household, children free or drivers free. 78% stated they would be willing to be Good Samaritans and pick up registered Riders.

We were amazed to find that the average number of trips per week to town was 6.2. A lot of driving, gas and carbon.

Sandy Hook folk are reasonably hardy as they indicated on average they would walk nearly 4 blocks to a Sammy Stop and would be happy to wait for an average of 17 minutes. Some of the comments included were very helpful and very encouraging. **A sampling:**

"High priority—an idea for these times"

"I hope it will be a success"

"This is a wonderful idea"

"We deserve transit but otherwise this plan will sure help"

Especially gratifying—Eleven good people volunteered to assist and already a meeting has been held to look at "What Now."

On July 2, 8 of the volunteers gath-

ered in the evening to review the survey results and make some decisions based upon them. There is lots of work to do and it will be a busy summer. Each volunteer has undertaken a task and agreed we will meet often to push this along as best we can. An optimistic target for startup is mid-September. Some of the tasks to tackle.:

- Design and produce some sort of identification card and car sticker or card
- Set up a registration process along with appropriate forms and identity checks
- Choose the "Sammy Stops" and make sure we have proper permissions for them
- Integrate with East Porpoise Bay and Tuwanek. We are looking at colour coding the cards so that riders and drivers will know what community a car is going to or a rider wants to go to.
- Lay out some simple and flexible guidelines for both drivers and riders.

And... Yes we can use more volunteers. There are always little jobs that need taking care of and always fresh ideas we can use.

We hope to send out some sort of status report in August or early September.

**Deerhorn Park**—A special thanks to the SHCA volunteer group who turned out to clean up Deerhorn Park on June 28th. This beautiful little



park had become over run again with blackberries and other weeds. The park is a very peaceful spot with all native plants includ-

ing a planting of Oregon grape and a

special park bench looking up the inlet. Take a breath and visit (Entrances by the mailbox Skookumchuk/Mt. Richardson and on Deerhorn in the 5800 block)

#### Some Other SHCA Actions—

1. A letter was issued objecting to the location of a proposed "burn pit" on Band Land near Pop-eye's.
2. Attended a District meeting and contributed ideas to legalize secondary suites to help relieve the affordable housing crisis.
3. Gray Waddell and Sue Jackel with Joan Pedlar as backup have volunteered to be the Sandy Hook reps on the upcoming Neighbourhood Plan/Official Community Plan/Visioning process to be started this summer by the District.
4. Hidden Grove is still a priority item and the special committee has been working to begin a new trail building program including handicap access.

**The SCAF Website**—Your community association is part of a larger gathering of the associations called the Sechelt Community Associations Forum. It maintains a large website which includes our own Sandy Hook site.

One way of keeping up on what is going on is to visit the SCAF site regularly where you can see the issues in other communities—read minutes of their meetings and see what projects they have. SCAF itself also maintains a very complete site with links to many helpful other sites. Of course, always check the Sandy Hook site while at SCAF. Top right on the SCAF entry page is a handy list of the most recent posting for all and this saves you seeking out what is new. There is even a classified ads section.

Just go [www.sechelt.net](http://www.sechelt.net)

**A few simple rules to consider:** Almost anything is easier to get into than out of. OR Trust only those who stand to lose as much as you do when things go wrong. OR You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool MOM.—OR An optimist believes we live in the best of all possible worlds. A pessimist fears this is true. OR Roads in the worst need of repair naturally have low traffic counts, which results in low priority for repair work. OR The food that tastes the best has the highest number of calories.