



Sandy Hook Community Association

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YOUR OFFICERS And Directors

President

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Past President

Joan Pedlar—885-7680

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At Large

Rupert Clark—885-5701

Jude Da Silva—885-3347

Peter Harvey—885-4833

Ivana Cappelletto—885-4302

Paul Manson—885-4302

President's Message — FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

We are all aware of the extreme number of wild fires that have been occurring in many parts of BC this summer. Lillooet and Kelowna are only two examples of where evacuation has been ordered and property has been damaged or destroyed. We are reminded of our own vulnerability by the blaze across the Inlet at Carlson Bay in August and the one that was (fortunately) quickly contained in East Porpoise Bay last summer.

If a fire got started in Sandy Hook the chances of containing it would be limited by:

- the time it would take the fire department to get here IF our single road access road was open.
- the density of coniferous trees
- the steep terrain

One way to reduce the risk would be a Total ban on outdoor burning year around. There have been recent examples of camp fires being left unattended by folks who should know better. Concerned neighbours who call the Bylaw Officer discover that enforcement on a weekend is pretty lax.

We want to know how YOU feel about protecting YOUR property—and perhaps, your life. So, please, take the time to read and complete and return the questionnaire that accompanies this newsletter.

We had a Picnic

On July 12th Sandy Hook revived its annual picnic BIG TIME. A rough count—and we missed some—was 146 in attendance. We saw people out we had not seen in years it seems.

There was super food. Lots of chat and great fun for the kids with face painting and limbo dancing. If you

did not attend you missed a really nice event and should be sure and show up next year.

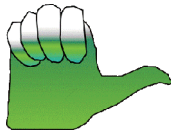


If you want to see some fun pictures of it all go to:

<http://sandyhookca.com/Sandypictures.html> and click on the link.

A big thanks to the volunteers who helped out from morning to evening but a VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to new board member Ivana Cappelletto who whipped everything and everybody into to shape on very short order. Some things she just

made happen like magic. (we hope she is game for next year too!)



CoastRide Update:

Finally on July 22nd we received approval to put up signs but subject

to the design and locations being approved by the District. We pulled together our designs for in the community and for downtown along with locations and submitted them to the DoS for approval on August 12th. As of writing this we had not received any response so everything is delayed yet again.

On a positive note we are pleased to advise that downtown merchants have been most helpful and approved our erecting signs on their properties so the visibility in town should be greatly upgraded. Hang in there we will get this going for good one day.



Boat Launch Update:

All of the spots are taken and there is a waiting list of three as we go to press.

We have a solution in mind to increase the capacity and several boat

owners have expressed support. In early October we will contact all the owners of light boats—like kayaks—and solicit their approval to go on a stacking rack. We have a volunteer to build one or more racks and provided the cost is not outrageous your Association would spring for the materials. With racks we can put about 6 boats where only 2 are now. Watch for an email or listen for a phone call about this.



Hidden Grove News:

Those of you who have been to the

Grove recently will note the pink tape. That marks out the parking areas and the loop for a one way passage in and out.

The SCPI folks have been in touch and are doing all the paperwork for the cutting permits to clear the few trees in the way of the parking. Also they have applied for grants for the Grove to pay for the work.

We might not get much more done this year but it is all proceeding nicely.

On personal note—our hardest

working volunteer on all the Grove projects, Michael Davidson, was out playing cross country bicycle and went over the handle bars breaking his shoulder. Michael get better soon. If nothing else we need your leadership on the Grove project



Sechelt Heritage Forest

Thanks to Mike Sutcliffe and Peter Harvey for once again cutting out some of those big fallen

logs so we can all walk through easily.



Vial Of Life:

We want to bring to everyone's attention a new program in Sechelt

Every household but particularly those with just one person should make a point of joining in. You pick up a Vial for Free at PharmaSave (5663 Cowrie St). It is a simple pill bottle especially marked and containing a form for you to fill in at home with important medical information and contact information. You put the bottle in your fridge (safest place in your house in the event of a catastrophe) and there is a sticker with the bottle that you place on the outside of your fridge.

In the event ambulance, fire or police are called or even if a neighbour just finds you in a bad way, the important information is available to help with medical attention saving precious time with tests or looking for prescriptions.

We encourage everyone to participate in this. The life you save could be your own but in any event you may save your loved ones a lot of anguish.



Email addresses?

We recently sent out a Cougar warning to all the Sandy Hookers we had email addresses for. Some 14 came back as undeliverable.

We very rarely send an email to everyone but when we do it is something deemed very important. Rest assured we do not share your address with anyone and send the group emails with software that hides your address from the others. If you have changed your email address please let us know by just emailing us. If you did not receive the Cougar Warning then chances are we do not have your current email address.

Official Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plan:

Members of SHCA are still attending meetings to finalize both these important documents that will guide development in Sechelt and Sandy Hook for years to come. We had hoped to announce the dates of the public hearings in this newsletter but instead must just ask you to watch the local paper for announcements. Everyone should turn out to see what is planned and to give your input into the plans. Yes, your voice will be heard and changes can be made.



Swim Float

It is not an Association project but some of your fellow members are responsible for the

refurbished and re-anchored float down at the beach on the east end of Porpoise Drive. During those hot, hot days of August the swim back a forth was really refreshing. Thanks to all who persevered on this project

Visit Hidden Grove at www.hiddengrove.info



Park Road?:

Never heard of it? Well, when Sandy Hook was laid out public access routes were set out so that you could walk between the roads with-

out going back to the start. One of these was actually a full road that was never developed or opened. It runs between the west end of Porpoise Drive and Sandy Hook Road. While it is about 20 feet wide as a road, the Parks department of the District has put in their budget opening it up as a walking trail with steps, etc.

When completed you will have a walking loop from Klahanie to the west end of Porpoise and back up to Sandy Hook Road where you can walk east back to Klahanie.

Your association is looking at some of the other public accesses to review the practicality and desirability of opening them.

District Referrals:

Did you know that your Association receives copies of what are called referrals when an application has been made for a variance in the zoning or building codes or similar. Sometimes it is something as simple as someone want to build a deck that extend a foot further than the setbacks allow. Sometimes it is something major.

We always review these referrals and if they are going to impact any resident adversely make contact with that resident. In some circumstance we could go to bat for one position or the other.

If you have a concern about a referral do not hesitate to contact us to discuss it

Is your membership up to date? if not, use the form on the questionnaire and save a stamp.

Want to see what your Board is up to? Minutes are posted each month on the website

Have an urge to help on the Board? Just give us an email or phone call and we will set it up.



YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

The Sandy Hook Community Association wants to know what you think about an issue that could affect all of us: **fires**.

Please just fill in this form and mail it in the self-addressed and stamped envelope.

PRIVACY—Unless you choose to do so, you will not be identified in any way and may submit this survey anonymously.

BACKGROUND

The recent disasters in Kelowna and California have focused many on the situation here in Sandy Hook. Many Sandy Hook residents have recently expressed concerns about the fire dangers in our area, as well as about specific incidents where fires were left uncontrolled. Some facts about the fire danger here are:

- The terrain is very steep so that even on a calm day or even on a wet winter day a fire starting in the lower reaches of Sandy Hook has potential to spread uphill gaining strength; taking homes out with it. On a hot summer day, of course, the potential is even greater.
- The Fire Department has advised a minimum time to reach a Sandy Hook fire is over 20 minutes and in some areas or under some conditions could be much longer (e.g. the fire blocks Sandy Hook Road into our community).
- On or about July 13th a total ban on any open (not indoor fireplace or wood stoves) fires was put in place by our Fire Chief. Until then open fires were allowed including backyard and beach fires.
- We have a backyard burning bylaw that allows for fires all year if they are for cooking or warmth unless a total ban is imposed.
- Fires can start many ways other than from an open fire in a yard or at the beach: a gas leak in a house, a careless smoker, sparks from a poor wood stove or indoor fireplace and more.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR OPINIONS WITH AN 'X' IN THE BOX THAT MOST DESCRIBES HOW YOU FEEL:

	<u>AGREE</u>	<u>NEUTRAL</u>	<u>DISAGREE</u>
A) Sandy Hook, overall, could be in considerable danger from any wildfire, no matter what the cause.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Based upon recent media coverage of forest fires and the recent fire at Carlson Bay on the Inlet, I am personally concerned about the safety of my property and Sandy Hook residents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) I am concerned that the Fire Department may take at least 20 minutes to reach Sandy Hook in the event of a fire.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D) I am concerned that there is only one way out of Sandy Hook in the event of an emergency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E) Sandy Hook, because of its geography and forests, should have restrictions on fires separate from those in Sechelt and the Regional District.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F) There should be a total year-round ban on any open fires in Sandy Hook, including beach fires and backyard cookouts and outdoor fires for warmth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G) Outdoor fires for cooking and warmth should generally be permitted, unless a total ban is imposed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I) If I have to leave my home on short notice, I have an emergency/ disaster kit prepared.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE ———>>

BACKGROUND NO. 2

Developers may obtain special permits from the Fire department to burn the slash and stumps left from clearing a lot or lots. These are normally only granted for burning in the winter season but may be granted at other times.

	<u>AGREE</u>	<u>NEUTRAL</u>	<u>DISAGREE</u>
Slash burning to clear property should be permitted, unless a more restrictive ban becomes necessary because of dryness, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am concerned about the quality of the air in Sandy Hook, including smoke from wood burning fireplaces and/or slash burning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

We welcome your comments and suggestions:- _____

Residents who received this survey by email were given a special online form so they could participate just like those who received a home delivery and self address and stamped envelope.

While you have a FREE envelope why not renew or start your SHCA membership?

Membership—\$10 per person. Mail to 5916 Skookumchuk, Sechelt, BC, V0N3A4 OR at the Tot Park Box

Name _____ Email (print clearly) _____

Address in Sandy Hook _____ Phone _____

Other Address (if applicable) _____

I would like the Sandy Hook Newsletter by ____ Home Delivery (usual) ____ Email (off-coast) ____ Postal (special)