

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 1 • SPRING 2010

FRESH NEWS

As some of you may be aware - important changes have taken place in the Sandy Hook Community Association (SHCA) in the past few months. With the resignation of some important members - recruitment of new Board members was done. Harold Fletcher, who has extensive experience, joined the Board as a Treasurer and I became the new President. My name is Melanie Vallieres, I am a mother of two kids and I have lived in the Sandy Hook community since 2003. I look forward to being involved in the community to make it a better place to live in. The Association is a place where everyone's voice can be heard and a way for our community to speak up for our rights and well-being.

The SHCA remains committed to the Ride Share program being led by Bob D'Arcy. The SHCA also remains committed to the Hidden Grove effort with renewed support for the 2008 Hidden Grove Plan and the continued support of the Hidden Grove committee (www.hiddengrove.info). I think Bob D'Arcy, Michael Davidson, Gray Waddell, and others are doing a great job and the community is much in debt to these volunteers.

You may have noticed a different approach to distribution of this news letter. The news letter will be available on your new web site (www.sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca) and via email (for those who provided an email address). The news letter will also be available via distribution boxes at the various bulletin boards. The Board hopes that this will;

- reduce the cost of producing the news letters
- free up volunteer time for other projects
- save a few trees

The annual Meet & Greet is coming and I encourage all Sandy Hookers to attend. This is a great way to get to know new neighbors or touch base with some familiar faces.

Please come, get involved and enjoy a nice glass of wine in good company.

HIDDEN GROVE

While you've been keeping cozy by the fire this winter, a dedicated group of up to 8 volunteers has been going into the Hidden Grove's hitherto unexplored northern half twice a week to build a 2-3 km loop trail. Beginning and ending at the 'Wetland Loop', the trail is completed and can also be accessed by a short access trail from the Davis Brook area of Inlet road on the way to Tuwanek. Final completion is targeted for the end of February. Look for details at: www.hiddengrove.info.

There is exciting news on the parking lot, as well. After a meeting on February 9th with Kevin Davie and Brian Smart from the Community Forest and Ron Casey, a local logging contractor, members of the Hidden Grove Steering Committee were told that work on the project might begin the next day. After falling hemlocks too dangerous for community volunteers to tackle, Ron will use a large excavator to scrape away rotted logs and organic material down to native soil which appears to be granular enough to form a base for the lot, thus eliminating the need for trucked in aggregate for all but final surfacing. Every effort will be made to scatter the organic material on site to avoid more trucking or, God forbid, burning! The public is encouraged to steer well clear of these dangerous operations, which should be finished by the end of February. When finished, the Hidden Grove will finally have a proper parking lot which will form a solid basis for future work, like the upcoming Handicap Trail.

Michael Davidson

NEW MEET AND GREET MARCH 20

Our Meet and Greet is on 20th March time 6 p.m. onwards:
Little Orchard Corner, 6946 Mt. Richardson Road, Sandy Hook.
Young and old alike this is a great time to connect
with your neighbors! Tel. 604 885 3347.

NEW NEWSLETTER

The SHCA Board has decided to deliver news letters using the following methods;

- * email - for those who have provided an email address
- * letter boxes at bulletin boards

Some news letters may be mailed via snail mail - for those living off coast and lacking email. This should reduce cost and effort in delivering newsletters and may even save some trees.

NEW WEBSITE

The Sandy Hook Community Association has a new web site at www.sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca - please check it out. The SHCA Board hopes that the blog style web site provides useful and timely information. Some nice features of the new site are:

- * folks can search the web content (web pages) and the archived documents (minutes, agenda, etc).
- * folks can create an account and submit blog entries/comments

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	Melanie Vallieres	604 885 8810
SECRETARY	Peter Harvey	604 885 4833
TREASURER	Harold Fletcher	604 885 4433

DUES ARE DUE

Have you paid up for the calendar year 2010?

Please pay in cheque or cash @ sandy hook community mailbox on deerhorn

dgm JUNE 2 @ 3:00PM

SANDYHOOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SAD FAREWELLS

This is the first newsletter following the departure from the board of four key members, whose combined contribution to the SHCA amounts to some 20 years.

Gray Waddell, our former president, is familiar to anyone who attends council meetings, G8 meetings (representatives from the 8 neighbourhoods that comprise Sechelt), open houses, and public hearings. Gray patiently attended all these meetings and often spoke up on Sandy Hook issues. He continues to represent us in the final stages of creating the new OCP (Official Community Plan), which is about to be released in draft form.

Bob D'Arcy was our longtime Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Author and Editor, Webmaster, and Forest Trailblazer. Bob continues his involvement as Chairman of the Hidden Grove Steering Committee and also as Chair of the Coast Ride Committee. Both of these committees were founded by Bob and his continuance in these roles is greatly appreciated.

Mike Sutcliffe was, and still is, a steadfast member of the trailbuilding crew. When a tree falls in the woods (and blocks a trail) it is often Mike who clears the path for us. The two Mikes (Davidson and Sutcliffe) are instrumentally responsible for the extensive new trail network in the northern part of Hidden Grove.

Eugene Scanlan's contributions as SHCA Vice President were mostly as the voice of moderation. He's the sort of person that Rudyard Kipling was referring to in his poem "If," which begins "If you can keep your head when all around are losing theirs etc.

All four of these board members are sadly missed.

We have two new board members:- Melanie Vallieres has taken over as President. Harold Fletcher is our new Treasurer. Peter Harvey (President in 2008) is the Secretary and Webmaster. Ivana Cappelletto is Newsletter Editor. Paul Manson, Jude Povoas DaSilva and Rupert Clark continue as Directors at large. If anyone would like to join us and spare a couple of evenings each month, we'd like very much to hear from you. Please contact our Secretary Peter Harvey at 885-4833.

9-1-1 PROCEDURES

- Call 9-1-1 if you have an emergency that requires immediate action from the police, ambulance, or fire: if someone's health, safety, or property is in jeopardy or if a crime is in progress.
- Be prepared to answer questions. Speak clearly and remain calm.
- Know your location at all times.
- Don't program 9-1-1 into any phone.
- If you call 9-1-1 accidentally, stay on the line and let us know. If you hang up we don't know if you are OK and we'll call you back.
- Keep your cell phone in a safe position to prevent accidental calls.

<http://www.ecomm.bc.ca/>

COAST RIDE

The CoastRide program is alive and well. Folks are encouraged to register for the program with Bob D'Arcy (885-5766) and those already registered are encouraged to continue to make use of the program. Registered Rider & Drivers are given identity cards and they can be used to verify participants. Registered riders can catch a ride at any of the spots marked with a post and a CoastRide sign. This is an excellent way

to reduce the number of cars going to/from town (good for the environment and good for the pocket book). The SHCA thanks Bob and others for keeping this worthy program moving forward. For more details see the CoastRide website at www.coastride.net

STREET SIGNAGE VISIBILITY

We met with "Fire Chief Bill" about it. He says it is the #1 peeve of the emergency response folks. They can always get close to a location using their maps and GPS but then they are faced with long dark driveways. Any house numbers are usually low contrast, grown over or non-existent. If they drive one of their rigs down the wrong driveway, it's a dog and pony show getting it back out.

The building code actually requires house numbers. There is a sign maker in Halfmoon Bay that makes aluminum signs with reflective numbers at cost (\$40) but that doesn't include installation.

He pointed out the fire department has it much easier than the ambulance service because

- 1) A burning house stands out pretty good
- 2) There are way more heart attacks than house fires.

TRAIL TALK

In case anyone is interested to know who has been doing the extensive trail building in the northern part of Hidden Grove; the main man is Michael Davidson who was responsible for getting the permits, planning the route and leading the work crew (and to top it all, providing coffee and cookies for all participants). His leadership has inspired a dedicated following which includes Gray Waddell, Mike Lane, Mike Sutcliffe, Bob D'Arcy, Ken Hall, Ray Fitch and Rupert Clark. The work proceeds (weather permitting) twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00am til 11:00am, meeting currently at the top of the long hill on Sechelt Inlet Road just north of Davis Brook. Volunteers are welcome - wear boots and gloves, bring your own pick axe and shovel etc. if you have them.

THANK YOU

The Board thanks the following persons for volunteering to deliver recent news letters and hopes that these folks will continue to volunteer in the future.

The Board would also like to thank Rupert Clark for his work in getting the new letter boxes in place and Ivana Cappelletto for taking on the task of producing the news letters..

A BRIEF FAREWELL

Although I shall be returning for a short time in the autumn, I have to say goodbye for now to all the friends and acquaintances I have made during the last three and a half years here. To have to go (not enough points!) has been a painful realization after such joyful times, but now I'm used to the fact, and know that I can still come back for visits, see friends, tend my trees and see Lucy my dog, I'm no longer crying and just want to say a heartfelt thanks, and goodbye to fellow board members of the Sandy Hook Community Association past and present for giving me the opportunity to live a Canadian life in another sense of the word; it was enlightening and also fun. Just as I was getting to know the ropes I have to go. (Perhaps there's a replacement for me out there?)

Goodbye also to all you 'Sandy Hookers' and 'Tillicum Bayers', especially my opposite neighbours who have been particularly amazing angels with invisible wings! Thank you for being who you are and to the special friends I know I shall never be able to replace. I'll be off at the end of March, but hope to see you in September.

With very best wishes to you all,

Jude (da Silva Povoas)

