

**To: District of Sechelt**

**From: Sandy Hook Community Association**

**RE: Capital Works**

**Date: March 2006**

First, a sincere thanks to you for all the work done on Sandy Hook Road last year. The road is now graded so that the rain runs off into the drainage ditches, alleviating the problems formerly experienced by the residents on the 'down' side of the road. We appreciate that BA Blacktop is committed to coming back and repairing the small section where puddling still occurs and that the lines will be repainted when the weather settles.

We also thank you, on behalf of our younger residents and their parents, for the playground equipment that has been installed at the Sandy Hook Park at the end of Coracle Place. It was wonderful to see children using the park last summer, and now that our winter weather is behind us I'm sure it will be enjoyed again this spring and summer.

We are attaching our submission from last year. We appreciate that some items were addressed quickly, but we are still requesting attention to: the Beach Access on Coracle Drive; issues surrounding Sandy Hook Park at the end of Coracle Place. We also have concerns regarding the intersection of Sandy Hook Road and Klahanie and have had informal discussions with you regarding this.

#### **Beach Access on Coracle Drive**

The problems with the beach access are:

- We request confirmation that the road from Coracle Drive to the Beach Access does not cross private property. (If it does cross private property then we would request stairs be built from Coracle Drive to provide access to the Beach Access.)
- The stairs to the beach are presently in need of repair. Could you determine if they are safe to use, and if not, could you make repairs.
- If/when the stairs are safe, could you reinstall a Beach Access sign on Coracle Drive.
- A cement pad has recently been installed directly in front of the stairs to the beach. Could you investigate and advise us regarding the purpose of this apparent parking spot. If it is, in fact, a parking spot, could you install a sign restricting parking to 1 or 2 hours to eliminate the possibility of people parking longer and therefore restricting public access to the beach?

#### **Sandy Hook Park**

Sandy Hook Park is a beautiful piece of waterfront property with the potential for an incredible view down Sechelt Inlet. The District of Sechelt has installed a playground in the upper section of the park, near the parking area; however, we are requesting changes to open up the lower section of the park to the public.

- A private gravel driveway traverses the park diagonally and leads to a private residence. This leaves the impression that the park is, in fact, a private estate. Residents and visitors alike refuse to 'trespass' onto what appears to be private property.

- There is an imposing gate across the driveway that only reinforces the suggestion that this is a private property. In past discussion with the District of Sechelt, there was the suggestion that this gate would be replaced with three wooden posts – the centre post would be locked, but removable, to allow access to the park, and to the private residence beyond the park.
- There is no signage indicating that this is a public park. There is a small, partially hidden sign indicating ‘Beach’ but no indicator that there is a footpath to the beach.
- The incredible view is obstructed by overgrown laurel trees, bamboo and rhododendrons. If these could be pruned, limbed up and/or moved it would allow for lovely view corridors.
- At present the only useable pedestrian access to the beach is via the road to the boat launch. In summer we have trucks and other large vehicles with boat trailers that are attempting to either back down the hill to launch their boats or trying to get enough traction to pull their boats out of the water and to drive up the hill. Either way, it is very difficult for these drivers to also be aware of the families, small children and older residents who use this road as pedestrians and this creates an unsafe situation for everyone. However, there is a lovely little footpath through the park that could provide pedestrians safe access to the beach. Unfortunately this has become overgrown and large rocks have been placed at the beach end of the path, making the path inaccessible for most people. The path needs to be cleared, the rocks on the beach removed, and possibly steps installed between the beach and the beginning of the path.
- We have great community spirit in Sandy Hook and we would be happy to meet with you and offer any assistance we could to work together to improve this pathway

#### **Klahanie/Sandy Hook Road Intersection**

- The community is once again expressing concerns about speeding on Sandy Hook Road where the posted speed is 30 kph. We have contacted the RCMP and ICBC with requests for suggestions to approach this problem in a proactive manner; to date neither of these agencies have been able to offer any ideas or support.
- When driving up Klahanie, to Sandy Hook Road, the visibility at the corner is very poor, and in fact vehicles must drive partially on to Sandy Hook Road before they are able to clearly see the traffic coming from either direction.
- We are requesting that you consider installing a three-way stop at this intersection; it is currently a one-way stop on Klahanie. We will discuss this option at our Annual General Meeting on May 11 and will get back to you with the recommendation of the community.