



SANDY HOOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Dear Neighbours, it is a pleasure to once again have an opportunity to reconnect with everyone through our newsletter; a place where we can catch up on neighborhood news and activities – to let people know what is happening in Sandy Hook, to welcome newcomers, to recognize our local celebrities, to solicit opinions and to invite neighbours to join us in local activities.

Since our last newsletter in the spring many things have happened. We have continued our traditional activities – the AGM, the summer picnic - we also organized a first-time joint activity with 5 other Sechelt community organizations, 'A Water Conservation Public Presentation'

with a poster activity for the kids. We, the Board, have followed the plans for the SSC development including taking a tour of their properties in order to understand the proposed plans for Sechelt. A highlight during the long, warm summer days of relaxing on the beaches has been the pleasure of meeting many new



neighbours. In the last months we have seen a surge in real estate activity on the Coast and Sandy Hook has experienced its fair share of neighbours leaving us and other newcomers arriving here.

October brought the annual 'Great BC Shakeout' to remind us all to "Drop, Cover and Hold' (Drop to the ground, Take cover by getting under a sturdy desk or table, Hold on to it until the shaking stops (approx. two minutes) when the big one comes. BC is one of the most seismically active regions in the country and we are told to prepare for a massive quake here in the future. Remember you can find the information you need to be

prepared at www.scrd.ca/Personal. And don't forget your pets, check what they might need - www.scrd.ca/Pet-Safety.

Make sure you have your 'grab and go' kit ready for whatever situation, and food and emergency supplies if we need to stay put with our own resources. The SCRDR provides much valuable emergency preparedness information for you at www.scrd.ca/Emergency-Planning.

The AGM in June was well attended with many new faces in the crowd. We had an interesting and energetic discussion on seniors' issues, (Aging in Place and Age Friendly communities), how to facilitate people staying in their own homes and



what services are needed in our communities. We were lucky to have with us our keynote speakers Sue Jackel and Alison Leaney – experts in this subject matter, who led the discussion. Many interesting and valuable ideas were tabled and are being followed up on. One specific idea that was introduced during the meeting was one that I would now like to offer up for discussion by all Sandy Hook residents - the idea of building a community centre in Sandy Hook. Such a centre would be for all residents and multiple uses. This idea will be on the Board's agenda in 2017 but in the meantime we would encourage everyone to think about such a possibility:

- **Would a community centre benefit our community and in what way,**
- **What would you like to see in a community centre,**
- **Where should it be located,**
- **What would be needed,**
- **How would it be managed,**
- **What would be the costs and how would we cover them,**
- **What procedure would we need to follow to develop this idea?**

Please let us know what you think – you can reach us through the website and the contact number provided - www.sandyhookca.com. We need to know if this is a popular idea or not, and if we should pursue it. I encourage you all to get back to us on this issue – and any other issue you would like us to entertain.

Best wishes to you all and I look forward to meeting you at our upcoming Christmas and New Year activities.



Susan

Welcome new neighbours!

Everybody will have noticed how busy the Sunshine Coast Real Estate market was in 2016! Sandy Hook's landscape was changed temporarily with For Sale signs appearing and disappearing very quickly.

The Sandy Hook Community Association would like to take this opportunity to say "goodbye and good luck" to those who moved on, or who plan to, we hope you stay in touch. We also give a big welcome to all new residents – you made a great choice of neighborhood – we look forward to getting to meet you in the months and years ahead.



A local business called Share-There has been gaining some momentum since its fruition about a year ago. They offer a free web-based service for those interested in offering or requesting a car ride.

We have created a private group called “Sandy Hook Residents” in the www.share-there.com website. The steps to get involved are simple: create an account, search for “Sandy Hook Residents”, and request to become a member. Once you are approved as a member you’ll be able to request or offer car rides.

The more of us sign up to the “Sandy Hook Residents” group and the more frequently we use it, the more likely it is that we will be able to help a neighbour out or get a ride when we need it. It’s also a great way to meet more of our neighbours. So let’s give it a try and keep at it!

Summer 2016 Cougar Sightings

This past summer brought a number of cougar sightings in Sandy Hook and near the Hidden Grove trail network. The Sandy Hook Community Association sent out cougar sighting alerts to our members as they were reported and we liaised with the Sunshine Coast Wildsafe BC coordinator for information on how to minimize human-wildlife conflict and how to stay safe in cougar and bear country. Here’s what we learned:

Cougars:

- Cougars are secretive animals and there has not been a cougar-human attack or conflict on the Sunshine Coast to date.
- They are most active right before dusk to dawn, though can be seen during the day.
- Keep children and pets close while walking.
- Walk or hike in pairs or a group.
- If you spot a food cache (ie – killed deer or other food likely caught by a cougar), immediately leave the area. Cougars will return to their food over multiple days to feed.
- Keep pets indoors at night.

Bears:

- Most bears are attracted into residential areas because of food smells (garbage,

BBQs, compost bird seed, pet food) or to harvest fruit ripening in our gardens.

- To reduce bear sightings in residential areas, always put out your garbage bin on the morning of your scheduled pick-up (for us in Sandy Hook, Tuesdays before 8am), have a well-maintained outdoor composter to reduce odours or keep your compost bin inside and harvest fruit as it ripens throughout the growing season.

If you see bears or cougars in Sandy Hook throughout the year, email your

sighting to info@sandyhookca.com and we'll send out an alert.

Most wildlife sightings can be enjoyed and are not a problem. However, if you see a threatening or aggressive cougar or bear, call the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277.

To learn more about how to minimize human-wildlife conflict, visit:

www.wildsafebc.com

Going Nuts over the Nutcracker

For many people on the coast the annual production of the Nutcracker is a holiday highlight. The Coasting Along Theatre Society headed by Artistic Director Kathy Holmes brings together guest artists from ballet companies around the world to join local dancers for six magical performances.



Sandy Hook is well represented this year with three cast members: Julian Alphonse as Herr Stahlbaum, Francesca Manson as Fritz and Maggie Harvey as one of the party girls.

We hope to see you at the show!



Photo Contest

The Sandy Hook Community Association is announcing a great contest! We are asking all residents to submit photos that capture the beauty and wonderful quality of life offered in Sandy Hook.

- **No more than 4 photos per household**
- **Photographer must live in Sandy Hook (children included)**
- **Photo must have been taken in Sandy Hook**
- **Photo must be submitted before December 31st 2016**

Please send photos to info@sandyhookca.com and include the following information in the email:

- **Name and address of photographer**
- **One sentence description and location of the photo - “Children playing at Tot Park” “Sunset from Secret Beach”**

By submitting your photo you are giving us permission to post it on our website, www.sandyhookca.com and Sandy Hook Community Association Facebook Page (facebook.com/sandyhookca).

Four prizes of \$25 gift certificates, winners will be announced at our next Meet and Greet on January 21st, 2017.

We are also looking for 2-3 volunteer judges (who will not be allowed to enter, or have a member of their household enter, the competition. They will judge the photos without knowing who the photographer is. If you are interested in being a judge please send us an email.

2016 Children’s Caroling in the Park Event

We will be having our annual children’s carol concert on December 21st. No prior singing experience needed! Children, including newcomers, come to 5925 Skookumchuk Rd at 5:30PM for a quick practice and to receive their song sheets.

We will assemble at Tot Park at 6:30PM for singing, hot chocolate and cookies. Please come and join in the fun.

2017 Sandy Hook Community Association Meet & Greet

In what has become a community tradition we will start our 2017 calendar of activities with a party! All Sandy Hook residents are welcome.

- **Date – January 21st**
- **Time – 6.00 pm onwards**
- **Location – 5818 Skookumchuk Rd**
- **Bring – A pot-luck dish to share**

The Community Association will provide wine and sparkly water. We will share the photos and announce the winners at the party. This is also a great time to join or renew your membership in the association. Email Valerie at vnash@nashandassociates.org if you have questions or would like to RSVP.

Contact Us

info@sandyhookca.com

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