

SANDYHOOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

newsletter

Summer 2012

Coming Up: Your SHCA Annual General Meeting

Your SHCA Board has determined that the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") will be held on

Wednesday, June 20, 2012 between 7-9 pm
at the Sunshine Coast Art Centre. But what happens at the AGM?

Unlike the annual Meet and Greet (which took place in January 2012) and the Sandy Hook Days picnic (scheduled for August 18, 2012), the AGM is primarily a business meeting, although it is also a social event. Under para. 14 of SHCA's by-laws, "an annual general meeting must be held at least once in every calendar year and not more than 15 months after the holding of the last preceding annual general meeting."

The principal business of the AGM is the election of members of its Board. (It is the Board that selects SHCA's officers.) Para. 26 of the by-laws states:

(1) The directors shall cause to be prepared, at least 30 days prior to the annual general meeting, a slate of nominees for the positions of all directors whose terms are expiring and shall include the slate in the annual general meeting announcement.

(2) Any five (5) members in good standing may, by written petition signed by all of them, place in nomination an additional name (or names) of a Sandy Hook resident or property owner who is a current member. The petition must be submitted to the secretary not fewer than five (5) days prior to the annual meeting and must certify that the proposed nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

(3) No nominations may be made from the floor at the annual general meeting.

So basically the Board chooses a slates, announces it 30 days before the AGM, and then any five members may propose additional names, but no nominations may be made from the floor.

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HELP!

AU SECOURS!

This is a plea for all residents of Sandy Hook who are not already members of the Sandy Hook Community Association to correct that situation by joining for only \$10 per person per year and thereby becoming true Sandy Hookers.

We used to be known as the most active community association with the most members of all Sechelt community associations. A few years ago we had over 100 members. As recently as March of this year we had 42 members but we now have over 70 members.

So, if you're not a member, please join us. There are lots of things you might want to get involved in - things like the annual picnic (Sandy Hook Day) every summer, the community garage sale, cleaning up Sechelt Inlet road, or even delivering our newsletters. There's also, of course, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) where you get a chance to let your views be known. This year the AGM will be on June 20 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Arts Center - you can come and meet your neighbors and become a member there or join anytime. Please check our web site at <http://sandyhookca.com/> for more information about your association and upcoming events.

All the best from your President.

Gray Waddell

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(The Upcoming AGM - cont. from Page 1)

One member of the Board (Eugene Scanlan, its Secretary) was elected in 2011 and therefore is not up for re-election at this time. The Board has announced its slate of candidates, who are Gray Waddell (currently President), Valerie Nash, Melanie Valieres, and Michael Hertz. Three Board members (Rupert Clark, Neil Edmunds and Harold Fletcher (currently Treasurer) are not seeking re-election.

In the past, the Board as had as many as ten active members. The current by-laws (para. 25(1)) provide for as many as a dozen members (the Board is currently proposing to the AGM that this number be reduced to nine, although the AGM could change that number in the future if it chose to do so). The minimum number of Board members is five. The Board is actively encouraging volunteers to serve on the Board, as a Board with a full complement is more representative of the membership and provides the manpower needed to fulfill the needs of SHCA.

The Board is planning an active programme for AGM, including an outside speaker, discussion of issues currently facing SHCA, and a Question and Answer session for attendees. In addition, there will be a formal annual report and financial report presented.



On the trail in Hidden Grove

By-law Modifications Proposed

One of the things that the Board has accomplished in the past year has been to review the by-laws and make proposed changes. Most of these changes are technical in nature or designed to clarify the wording in the by-laws. Others (such as permitting notices and decisions to be made by email) are designed to bring its procedures up to date.

Possibly the only controversial changes are contained in new paragraphs 65 and 66. These would specifically permit the Board or the members to take positions on public issues on behalf of SHCA. The modifications specifically provide as well that nothing prevents individual Board members or SHCA members from taking a personal position contrary to that of SHCA.

The changes are as follows. With strikeouts; additions in **boldface**. A copy of the existing by-laws may be found on the SHCA website at <http://sandyhookca.com/archives/AgmBylaws/bylaws.htm>:

5. Every member must ~~uphold~~ **comply** with the constitution and ~~comply~~ with these bylaws.

[Note: the Constitution is the document that establishes SHCA as a BC society].

16. (3) A quorum is three (3) members present or a greater number that the members may determine at a **previous** general meeting **at which a quorum is present**.

21. (1) A resolution proposed at a meeting need not be seconded, and the chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution. **To be adopted at a general meeting a resolution which constitutes special business as defined herein must fall within the description in the meeting notice provided under paragraph 13(1).**

(3) Except where a special resolution is required by these by-laws or the Societies Act, all resolutions shall be deemed ordinary resolutions. The requirements for adopting such resolutions are the same as required by Paragraph 1 of the Societies Act.

23. A corporate member may vote by its authorized representative, who is entitled to speak and vote, and in all other respects exercise the rights of the rights of a member, and that representative

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(By-laws modification. Cont. from page 2)
must be considered as a member for all purposes with respect to a meeting of the society. **However, no corporation shall be a member unless authorized by the other members.**

25. (1) ~~Twelve~~ **Nine** members elected by the members, and the immediate past president, if he is not otherwise a director, shall be the directors of the society. The directors shall elect, from among themselves, a president, a vice president (who may be considered to be in line of succession to the presidency), a secretary and a treasurer.

(2) The number of directors may be ~~changed~~ **increased or decreased** from time to time at a general meeting, **but may not be less than five.**

27. (4) As soon as practicable following the annual general meeting, but within 10 days, the directors shall meet to elect officers, designate four authorized signers of cheques and documents, and transact any other business requiring their attention. **At the first regular meeting of the directors thereafter the directors shall conduct a review of standing committees to determine whether they are properly functioning or the committee structure needs modification.**

32. (4) A director may at any time, and the secretary, on the request of a director, must, convene a meeting of the directors **at the time and place so specified.** However, other directors (in number specified by a previously adopted Board rule) may change the time and place, but to a time no later than the next scheduled Board meeting.

(5) The directors may adopt their own rules for meeting and passing resolutions. They may meet in person or by telephone, electronic means, or any other reasonable method and may provide notice of any meeting by any means reasonably and fairly calculated to permit all available directors to attend and participate.

33. (3) The directors may establish committees (both standing and temporary) consisting of one or more directors, members or non-members, or a combination thereof, to carry out projects for the benefit of the society, and the directors shall determine the decision-making powers and rules within such committees. The directors shall remain responsible to the society for the governance of all such committees. At least one director shall be a member of any committee.

37. A director who may be absent temporarily from British Columbia may send or deliver to the address of

the society a **written** waiver of notice, which may be by letter, **electronic means**, telegram, telex or cable, of any meeting of the directors and may at any time withdraw the waiver, and until the waiver is withdrawn,

(a) a notice of meeting of directors is not required to be sent to that director, and

(b) any and all meetings of the directors of the society, notice of which has not been given to that director shall, if a quorum of the directors is present, be valid and effective.

45. (3) **The directors are free to authorize the appointed officers to carry out their duties with the assistance of one or more directors or other officers. The Board shall determine which person or persons are responsible when such assistance is authorized.**

(4) **Nothing herein authorizes the establishment of an Executive Committee.**

Part 10 Auditor

52. This Part applies only if the society is required or has resolved to have an auditor.

53. The first auditor must be appointed by the directors who must also fill all vacancies occurring in the office of auditor.

54. At each annual general meeting the society must appoint an auditor to hold office until the auditor is re-elected or a successor is elected at the next annual general meeting.

55. An auditor may be removed by ordinary resolution.

56. An auditor must be promptly informed in writing of the auditor's appointment or removal.

57. A director or employee of the society must not be its auditor.

58. The auditor may attend general meetings.

[Note: Part 10, governing auditors, is part of the model bylaws provided under the BC Societies Act but was not part of the SHCA bylaws. It has been added in the event an auditor should ever be needed. Subsequent provisions in the bylaws have been renumbered as a result].

60. ~~A notice may be given to a member, either personally or by mail to the member at the member's registered address.~~ Notices to members of meetings and other matters may be given by mail, personal service, electronic means, postings on community boards, or a combination of any or all of the foregoing, so long as the means chosen are reasonably and fairly calculated

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TROUBLE IN PARADISE

Sandy Hook and the Sunshine Coast can be a paradise, but recently there have been problems caused by a few people who had no consideration for others.

A while ago a large, out-of-control party had to be broken up by the RCMP with some arrests made. More recently, tenants of a Deerhorn house gave several noisy parties. Cars were parked on the road at a blind corner, and trash accumulated. Neighbors at first asked the tenants to keep the noise and partying within reasonable limits and tried to encourage parking in the driveway, but the situation and problems continued.

The house is owned by an absentee landlord despite a secondary suite and the requirement that the owner live there at least nine months of the year. It has also seen a steady stream of new tenants. Several neighbors on Deerhorn and even Sandy Hook Road had continuing noise problems, and there were some very close calls with cars and trucks parked on the road.

It became obvious to the neighbors that there weren't simple answers to getting this situation corrected. The District of Sechelt has two separate systems and sources for dealing with similar problems. There can be several different places to go for action, and you may well get varying degrees of effectiveness. The District Bylaws include a noise bylaw (220) that can be enforced by the District Bylaws Officers or the RCMP. However, there are real questions about whether or not these two agencies coordinate or if one can request action by the other. The Bylaws also include a ticketing bylaw (491) that allows ticketing for offences by either the Bylaws officers or the RCMP, but it is unclear who would be ticketed at a problem event and if this option is even used very often. The owner of the house can also be ticketed, but, unlike the system used in Gibsons, the ticket must be delivered directly to the owner, not mailed. This poses a real issue if the owner lives off-coast.

In the case of this problem house, the Bylaws officers themselves seemed confused about when tickets can be issued (at the time of the incident or later?). The RCMP did not seem to recognize the street parking dangers that residents felt were an issue, and RCMP rarely issues more than warnings to noisy parties.

As expressed to the Sandy Hook Community Association, the affected neighbors concluded that the District bylaws do not seem to be applied or enforced consistently and may not be enforced at all. Neighbors believe the house in question may never have had a building

permit for the secondary suite nor an inspection, nor that it is registered with the District. They also believe the house does not meet the adequate parking requirements of the District and also may fall under District bylaw 345: Unsightly Premises, but again no action has been taken.

So where does that leave you if you are faced with a problem house? The best advice is:

- Know the bylaws (available on the web at: <http://www.district.sechelt.bc.ca/CityHall/Bylaws.aspx>)
- Know the stated enforcement procedures (available on the web at: <http://www.district.sechelt.bc.ca/Live/BylawEnforcement.aspx>)
- Bylaws Enforcement can be reached at 604-885-1986 during office hours or 604-989-0176 after hours
- Document your complaints and issues (dates, times, recurrences, what you did about them)
- Be persistent (residents dealing with the problem house needed to make many calls and written complaints; overall, they felt that multiple people making many complaints was more effective generally than a single person expecting something to happen after one complaint)
- If you feel threatened or in danger from others, or see what may be or become a dangerous situation, call the RCMP at 911 (non-emergency calls should be directed to 604-885-2266).
- If you have similar problems, please notify the SHCA through email (see our web site at <http://sandyhookca.com/>) or by contacting one of the Board officers so we can try to help and also monitor the situation.

How did this problem house case end? After considerable persistence by Sandy Hook residents, the District seems to have convinced the owner to order the tenants to leave the house by the end of May. It is believed that the owner has been contacted about all the problems and the house will be inspected for violations. Of course, there is no guarantee that the next tenants will act any differently.

Note: This article was based upon written information submitted by affected residents to SHCA and discussions with some of these residents.

- Submitted by Gene Scanlan, SHCA Secretary

Volunteerism – Why it Matters

Did you know that just over half of Canada's 160,000 nonprofit organizations are operated solely through volunteer labour and every charitable organization are governed by voluntary boards? (Statistics Canada, 2004). The impact of volunteerism in Canada has huge social and economic relevance with 12.5 million volunteers (that's almost half of the nation's population).

☒ 46% of population 15 and over volunteer (12.5 million Canadians)

☒ Contribute 2.1 billion hours or equivalent of 1.1 million full time jobs

☒ Average annual contribution of 166 hours

☒ Median contribution of 56 hours

☒ 10% of volunteers (4.6% of all Canadians) contribute 54% of all hours

☒ 25% of volunteers (12% of Canadians) contribute 78% of total hours

(Summarized from the 2007 Canadian Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating)

Benefits of volunteering #1: Volunteering connects you to others

One of the better-known benefits of volunteering is the impact on the community. Unpaid volunteers are often the glue that holds a community together. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place. However, volunteering is a two-way street, and it can benefit you and your family as much as the cause you choose to help. Dedicating your time as a volunteer helps you make new friends, expand your network, and boost your social skills.

Benefits of volunteering #2: Volunteering is good for your mind and body

Volunteering provides many benefits to both mental and physical health.

☒ Volunteering increases self-confidence. Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity. And the better you feel about yourself, the more likely you are to have a positive view of your life and future goals.

☒ Volunteering combats depression. Reducing the risk of depression is another important benefit of volunteering. A key risk factor for depression is social isolation. Volunteering keeps you in regular contact with others and helps you develop a solid support system, which in turn protects you against stress and depression when you're going through challenging times.

☒ Volunteering helps you stay physically healthy. Volunteering is good for your health at any age, but it's especially beneficial for older adults. Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not, even when considering factors like the health of the participants. Volunteering has also been shown to lessen symptoms of chronic pain or heart disease.

Benefits of volunteering #3: Volunteering can advance your career

If you're considering a new career, volunteering can help you get experience in your area of interest and meet people in the field. Even if you're not planning on changing careers, volunteering gives you the opportunity to practice important skills used in the workplace, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, project planning, task management, and organization. You might feel more comfortable stretching your wings at work once you've honed these skills in a volunteer position first.

Benefits of volunteering #4: Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life

Volunteering is a fun and easy way to explore your interests and passions. Doing volunteer work you find meaningful and interesting can be a relaxing, energizing escape from your day-to-day routine of work, school, or family commitments. Volunteering also provides you with renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into your personal and professional life. Many people volunteer in order to make time for hobbies outside of work as well. For instance, if you have a desk job and long to spend time outdoors, you might consider volunteering to help plant a community garden, lead local hikes, or help at a children's camp.

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Emergency Preparedness Program Survey 2012 Results

A total of 12 households completed the survey (which can be obtained on the SHCA website). We'll keep accepting surveys throughout the year as a way to continue getting information that could help us in the event of an emergency, so if you haven't filled out the survey yet please do so.

What have we learned?

Survey question: Our house number is easily visible to emergency personnel (fire/ambulance)

- Of those who responded thus far, three quarters believe that their house number is easily visible to emergency personnel (fire/ambulance), with the remaining quarter not so sure! This was the statement with the highest number of "totally agree."

Survey question: Our household is well equipped with all of the items needed to live for at least 72 hours (nonperishable food and water, first aid kit/personal medications, radio and batteries, matches, candle, flash light, extra gas for boat or car)

- Of those that have responded thus far, most (11 out of 12) believe they are somewhat or totally prepared with all of the items needed to live for at least 72 hours.

Survey question: Our household would be well prepared and self-sufficient in the event of an emergency.

- Of those that responded thus far, a quarter totally agreed with the statement that their household would be well-prepared and self-sufficient in the event of an emergency, just over half somewhat agreed and sixteen percent (2 out of 12) somewhat disagreed. This was the statement with the fewest number of "totally agree."

Several respondents listed skills that could be useful in the event of an emergency (First aid, search and rescue, radio operation) as well as resources that could be useful (tents, shovels, all-wheel drive vehicles, chain saw, generator, CB radio, boat). This information along with the names and contacts of those interested could be used to start up an early warning phone chain or neighborhood watch program.

-- Submitted by Val Nash

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How to find the right volunteer opportunity

There are numerous volunteer opportunities available. The key is to find a volunteer position that you would enjoy and are capable of doing. It's also important to make sure that your commitment matches the organization's needs. The following questions can help you narrow your options:

- ☐ Would you like to work with people or would you rather work in solitude?
- ☐ Do you prefer to work alone or as part of a team?
- ☐ Are you better behind the scenes or do you prefer to take a more visible role?
- ☐ How much time are you willing to commit?
- ☐ How much responsibility are you ready to take on?
- ☐ What skills can you bring a volunteer job?
- ☐ What causes are important to you?

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Looking for Volunteer Opportunities on the Sunshine Coast? Check out the Sunshine Coast Volunteer Center at the Seaside Centre or via their website <http://scvolunteer.com/> or phone 604-885-1036

-- Submitted by Val Nash

(Cont. from page 3 - Changes to By-laws)

lated to provide good notice.

Part 14 Miscellaneous

65. Nothing contained in these bylaws prohibits the Board or, through a general meeting, the members from expressing a public position on behalf of the Society on any subject which the Board or the members judge to be appropriate.

66. Notwithstanding the expression of a public position made on behalf of the Society by the Board or the members, nothing contained in these bylaws prohibits any member of the Board or the society from expressing his or her own personal opinion on the same subject.

-- Submitted by Michael Hertz