



## SHCA AGM Held May 29, 2014

The Association's 2014 AGM was held on Thursday, May 29th at the Art Center. (See story on pages 1 - 3.)

## SHCA Holds Emergency First Aid Class On June 2nd

Take an hour, save a life. The second emergency first aid class was very successful. (See page 3 for the story.)

## Star Party A Shining Hit

SHCA's and the Royal Astronomical Society's Star Party attracted people from all over for this new event. (See story on page XXX.)

## Picnic and Yard Sales Fun for Everyone

SHCA's yearly picnic and yard sales were again popular for kids and adults. (See story on page XXX.)

## What Makes A Good Neighbor?

SHCA President comments on the things that make a good neighbor. Are you a good neighbor? (See letter on page 3.)

## SHCA 2014 AGM A Roaring Success!

The Sandy Hook Community Association's 2014 AGM on May 29th at the Sechelt Arts Centre could probably be described as a "roaring success." Featured speaker Kim Drescher, Bear Aware Community Coordinator for WildSafeBC (a program of the B.C. Conservation Foundation), covered several important safety tips for avoiding incidents with our furry neighbors (see below for details). Other speakers included SHCA President Valerie Nash, SHCA Treasurer Melanie Vallieres, and Charles

Ennis of the Royal Astronomical Society Sunshine Coast Centre.



SHCA President Valerie Nash presents the 2013 - 2014 Annual Report.

President Nash opened by welcoming everyone and moving to the business section of the meeting. After members voted to accept the minutes of the 2013 AGM, she presented the 2013 - 2014 Annual Report

for the Association. Highlights included:

- Based on survey of residents, focus on emergency preparedness for the year.
- Newsletter articles provided information and other resources for emergencies.
- An emergency preparedness survey was designed and started to be distributed.
- SHCA sponsored a successful free basic emergency first aid class taught by Karin Apolzer for residents on July 4, 2013.
- We held our second community yard sale.
- The Sandy Hook Day picnic was the best attended ever and featured food, music, kids' contests, and boat rides on the Inlet.



- Our January 2014 Meet and Greet and Eat was also one of the best attended ever.

- We honored Past President and long-time Board member Gray Waddell for his service to SHCA and the residents of Sandy Hook.

- We honored District Parks Supervisor Perry Schmitt for his help and working with SHCA to improve the tot lot.

- SHCA Board members continued to monitor District meetings and represent SHCA at meetings of the Sechelt Community Association Forum.

- We communicated with the District on issues such as the paving of Skana Crescent, the proposed registration requirements for community associations, and other issues affecting Sandy Hook.

- We continued to communicate with residents through the newsletter, emails, posters, and flyers.

The next order of business was the presentation of the Financial Report for 2013 by Treasurer Melanie Vallieres; the members voted for acceptance of the report.

This was followed by the election of 2014 - 2015 Board members by the membership. Board members elected or re-elected for 2 year terms included:

- Valerie Nash (current President\_
- Melanie Vallieres (current Treasurer)
- Neil Edmunds (previously appointed to the Board)

At the completion of the business part of the AGM, Board member Neil Edmunds introduced Kim Drescher from WildSafeBC. Kim's presentation included both ways to prevent conflicts with area

wildlife (keeping food and garbage inaccessible, not using bird feeders, etc.) and important safety tips on what to do if you are confronted by wildlife. As she pointed out, each species (bears, cougars, and coyotes) needs a different response as well as a need to keep in control of the situation.



WildSafeBC Coordinator Kim Drescher demonstrates the need to keep your eyes focused on an approaching bear.

Recent incidents in Sandy Hook serve to underline Kim's advice. Bears are great climbers and bird feeders have proved attractive to one of our local bears who easily climbed onto a deck for food. In another post-AGM incident a mama bear climbed into a truck bed for some food inadvertently left there, and then sat on the truck's windshield.



After audience questions and discussion with Kim, Bob D'Arcy, President of the Sechelt Groves

Society, presented a brief report on Hidden Grove progress and plans, including trail work, gift benches, and upcoming installation of new signage.

President Nash next announced the SHCA calendar of upcoming events, including:

Basic First Aid Class Monday, June 2nd starting at 6:00 PM at the tot lot, rain date Monday, June 9 (successfully completed)

Community yard sale Saturday, July 5th 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon (successfully completed)

Sandy Hook Day Sunday, July 6th, 12:00 noon – 4:00 PM, Sandy Hook Park and boat launch area (rescheduled to July 13 due to weather.)

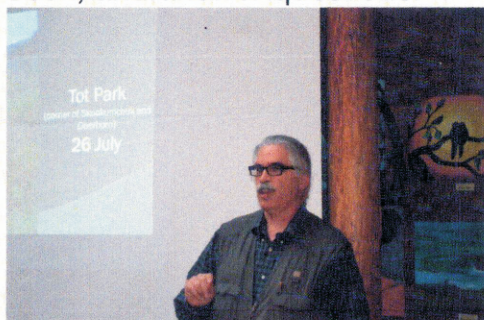
Look for a new Christmas holiday event and our annual Meet and Greet and Eat in January – dates will be announced

Astronomy Night in Sandy Hook Saturday, July 26th starting at 9:00 PM in the tot lot. This is a fun and educational new event SHCA is jointly sponsoring with the Royal Astronomical Society Sunshine Coats Centre and we urge everyone, including children to attend (successfully completed). President Nash introduced Charles Ennis of the Royal Astronomical Society Sunshine Coast Centre, who reviewed the history and programs of the Centre, including its outstanding speaker series and new telescope facility at the airport, and its planned July 26th Astronomy Night in Sandy Hook, starting at 9:00 PM in the tot lot

(Skookumchuk and Deerhorn Roads). This fun and educational event is for everyone, including children, and will feature several telescopes for viewing the stars



and planets, as well as Centre members to point out viewable objects, explain what is being seen, and answer questions.



Royal Astronomical Society Sunshine Coast Centre's Charles Ennis announces plans for Astronomy Night on July 26th in Sandy Hook.

There being no further business, the AGM was adjourned and members and guests stayed for refreshments and discussion. Following the AGM, the SHCA Board met briefly to elect 2014 - 2015 officers. Those elected were:

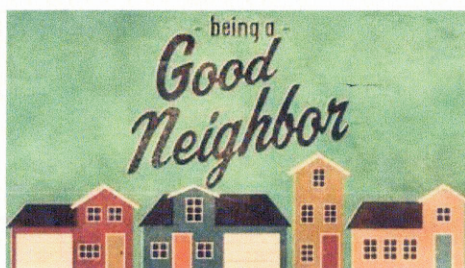
- Valerie Nash, President
- Susan Soux, Vice President
- Melanie Vallieres, Treasurer
- Gene Scanlan, Secretary

## Letter From SHCA President Valerie Nash

I recently found these qualities of a Good Neighbor by Googling "good neighbor qualities":

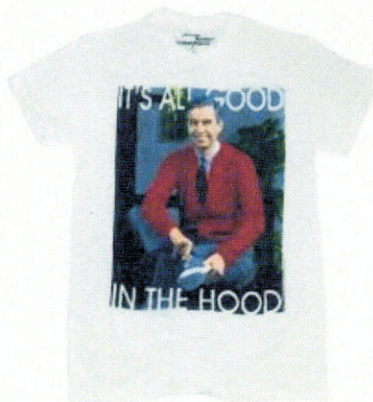
Ten Qualities of a Good Neighbor:

- They practice frequent communication
- They want to build good relationships
- They are quick to lend a helping hand
- They watch for other's properties and possessions for possible theft or damage
- They are involved in and are responsive to unusual situations
- They promote the well-



being of the whole community

- They are concerned for vulnerable members
  - They provide a safe place for children
  - They obey the law
  - They seek a win-win situation when problems arise
- I can think of lots of incidents when I have personally been the recipient of very neighborly behavior (apparently it takes a village to raise a puppy, plus just this weekend someone took note of the license plate of our painters unmarked van, just in case). I also think some of the above are less important than others – I don't think someone who keeps themselves to themselves (i.e. does not practice frequent communication) is a bad neighbor. I'd change that one to "They practice a live and let live attitude." Number 5 is my personal favorite because we do have the odd "unusual situation" to deal with. Bottom line, I think the majority of Sandy Hookers are awesome neighbors, with or without lists of "best practices."



## Spend An Hour, Save A Life

Your Sandy Hook Community Association sponsored its second free basic emergency first aid class for residents on June 2nd in the tot lot. Sandy Hook resident Karin Apolzer once again provided instruction in such techniques as cardiopulmonary resuscitation and



Karin Apolzer instructs residents on basic first aid life-saving techniques.

anti-choking measures. She also provided updates on recent recommended changes in using these techniques, as well as the differences in each method when applying them to children and infants.

After Karin explained and demonstrated each technique, attendees practiced on each other. Stuffed toys were used in place of children and infants.

Karin again emphasized that knowing what to do and using these techniques properly can save lives.





## First-Ever Sandy Hook Star Party/Astronomy Night A Shining Hit!

The Sandy Hook Community Association and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Sunshine Coast Centre co-sponsored Sandy Hook's first-ever Astronomy Night/Star Party in the tot lot at the corner of Skookumchuk and Deerhorn Roads on Saturday, July 26th. Sandy Hook's Charles Ennis, Director at Large (Media Director) for the Centre, assembled a stellar crew and their high-powered telescopes to provide Sandy Hook residents and others with an outstanding educational and fun experience.

Fortunately, the weather cooperated with exceptionally clear skies and many people arrived early. The first event of the evening, starting about 7:30 PM, was observations of the sun's surface (our own star) and the spectacular solar flares. This year the sun has had an unusual amount of activity and huge solar storms have moved across its surface and into space. Society members noted that the solar flares observers could see were much bigger than the earth.



People line up to use the solar scopes.

When twilight approached, more people (and dogs) arrived for the featured events. Participants included Sandy Hook residents, many children, plus others from Sechelt, Gibsons, Pender Harbor, and Roberts Creek, and even a couple from Pasadena, California.



The astronomical telescopes are calibrated and aligned.

As it got darker, the RASC members aligned their astronomical telescopes and the over 50 attendees lined up for more spectacular viewing. First visible were the planets Mars and Saturn. Viewers easily saw the "red planet" and the colorful surface and rings of Saturn. Soon more and more stars were visible and telescopes were adjusted so that viewers could see galaxies, the Milky Way, and unusual sights such as "binary" or double stars that rotate around each other. Children and adults were fascinated with both the observations and RASC members' enlightening explanations of what was being seen. Several of the members pointed out that their own interest in astronomy had started when they were children and had their first chance to view the planets and stars through telescopes. Many of those attending stayed

well past 11:30 PM. Those attending encouraged the Sandy Hook Community Association and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to repeat the Star Party here again soon.

The Association offers its thanks to the RASC member and especially to Charles Ennis for helping make the evening fun and memorable.

## SHCA Yard Sales and Picnic: Fun for Everyone!

Saturday, July 5th saw Sandy Hook residents setting up for the neighborhood yard sales after coming through their garages, storage spaces, and homes for those items which might be appealing and useful to others. SHCA distributed balloons to those participating