



SHCA AGM May 29, 2014

The Association's 2014 AGM will be held on Thursday, May 29th at the Art Center. All are invited. (See story below.)

SHCA Announces 2014 Events Calendar

SHCA has several fun and important events planned for the remainder of the year. (See story on page 2.)

The Stars Are Coming To Sandy Hook

Mark your calendars! The stars are coming to Sandy Hook on July 26th. (See stories on pages 2 and 4.)

SHCA Board Members Stand For Election Or Re-election

For election: Neil Edmunds; for re-election: Valerie Nash, Melanie Vallieres.

Disaster Preparedness Program Continues

Because of residents' interests, SHCA continues its work to better prepare us for a disaster. (See story on page 3.)

SHCA 2014 AGM: Thursday, May 29th At The Art Center

"Cougars and Bears and Coyotes, Oh My!" could well be the theme for the 2014 Sandy Hook Community Association AGM on Thursday, May 29th at the Art Center downtown starting at 7:00 PM.

In addition to regular Association business (the annual President's and financial reports, election of Board members, etc.), guest speaker Kim Drescher from WildSafeBC will tell us how to get along with our furry neighbors. Here we're no strangers to the other residents. Only a few weeks ago a coyote sauntered down Skookumchuk Road eyeing a



dog out for a walk with its owner. More recently a large bear broke through a board-enclosed area under a house to get at some fish waste. And not too many years ago a cat walking outside within reach of its owner was grabbed by a coyote, and never recovered. WildSafeBC was established to prevent human-wildlife conflicts, educate people about how to best manage waste that

attracts wildlife, and change our behavior since the animals cannot change theirs. Also important are the ways we should respond when encountering wildlife.

Also featured at the AGM will be the Sechelt Groves Society update on Hidden Grove's progress and plans. SHCA Board President Valerie Nash will announce the Association's upcoming activities and dates. And a special guest will describe in more detail a new event that will be both educational and fun for all ages. (Please see page 2 and the accompanying article on page 4 for information.)

Light snacks and beverages will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.



June 2: Free Emergency First Aid Class

Take an hour, save a life. Once again SHCA is offering a free emergency first aid class. Taught by Sandy Hook Resident and Lifeguard Karin Apolzer, the class will cover basic CPR, responses to choking situations, and other emergency first aid measures. The emphasis of the class will be on the skills needed to help a family member, friend, or neighbor with a medical emergency, accident injuries, or in a disaster.

After the demonstrations, participants will try the techniques on partners, or, in the case of possible young children (who require modified techniques), practiced on stuffed animal toys.

Last year's program was well attended and we urge everyone who can attend to come this year, including last year's participants.

Date: June 2, 2014 (Rain Date: June 9th)

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Tot Lot, Skookumchuk Road and Deerhorn Road

Contact: Melanie Vallieres
Vallieres Melanie
vallieresmelanie@ymail.com



July 5 & 6: Sandy Hook Days - Yard Sale and Picnic



Last year's yard sale and picnic were a great success. This year SHCA has decided to do these two events on

separate days so that residents can more fully participate. Saturday, July 5th is your chance to sell those items you've accumulated over the years and now just occupy space. SHCA will provide you with ballon markers and will help direct people to sales spots.

Yard Sale Date: July 5, 2014

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon

Location: Sandy Hook

Contact: Susan Soux [Susan Soux susansoux@gmail.com](mailto:susansoux@gmail.com)

The Sandy Hook Picnic on Sunday, July 6 promises to be bigger and better than ever. Last year's event included fun games for the kids, food and beverages, and boat rides on the Inlet. Here's your chance to see your friends, meet new neighbors, and have a great time.

Picnic Date: July 6, 2014

Time: 12:00 noon - 4:00 PM

Location: Boat launch/beach area



July 26: Astronomy Night In Sandy Hook

Yes, the stars are coming to Sandy Hook! The Sandy Hook Community Association, in cooperation with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Sunshine Coast Centre, is sponsoring Astronomy Night in Sandy Hook (see more about the RASC in the following article).

You may have looked at the night sky and wanted to see a little bit more of what's out there. Thanks to the Centre, you'll be able to see much more through members' high powered telescopes. You'll learn about the stars, constellations, and planets visible that night and will be amazed at how much fun astronomy can be.

We especially urge parents to bring their children to our first ever Astronomy Night. This year's AGM will include a preview of what we'll be seeing presented by Centre member and Sandy Hook resident Charles Ennis (see cover story on the AGM plus page 4).

Date: July 26, 2014 (Rain Date to be set)

Time: Starting at 9:00 PM

Location: Tot Lot, Skookumchuk Road and Deerhorn Road

SHCA'S DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

A few years ago SHCA conducted a survey of Sandy Hook residents to find out what issues concerned them most. The most frequently mentioned issue was disaster preparedness.

We live in an area that can experience two types of major disasters: earthquakes and forest fires. Additionally, flooding of creeks such as Chapman Creek may carry away bridges along highway 101, thus cutting us off from immediate help. The Sunshine Coast Regional District has a person appointed to coordinate disaster planning and emergency preparation. In presentations to SHCA and others he has warned us that, while recommendations normally call for your ability to be totally independent of outside help for three days, here we should be ready to be on our own for at least seven days.

The following article by SHCA Board member Susan Soux highlights important advice about some ways to prepare for and respond to earthquakes and fires, as well as providing links to additional resources. SHCA's free emergency first aid class (see upcoming events) and this article are part of our effort to ensure we're ready and can help each other in a time of need.

- Editor

ARE YOU PREPARED?

EARTHQUAKES

Small to medium size earthquakes are common in B.C. and more than 1,200 are recorded each year across the province. Earthquakes strike without warning, so it is important to act now to get prepared.²



DROP down onto your hands and knees (before the earthquake knocks you down). This position protects you from falling but allows you to still move if necessary.

COVER your head and neck (and your entire body if possible) under a sturdy table or desk. If there is no shelter nearby, only then should you get down near an interior wall (or next to low-lying furniture that won't fall on you), and cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.

HOLD ON to your shelter (or to your head and neck) until the shaking stops. Be prepared to move with your shelter if the shaking shifts it around.

Do an assessment of your home, surroundings and personal preparedness levels:

- Assemble emergency kits for your home
- Know your community emergency and evacuation plans
- Install latches on cupboards / water tanks
- Know how to shut off gas / electricity / water
- Know the safe spots in your home
- Decide on a family meeting place

- Take a first aid course

FIRES

Summer is approaching and the season is expected to be dry. Be safe in your home, in the woods and on the beaches. Check regularly for fire prohibitions, and area restrictions (<http://bcwildfire.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>).

Is your home fire safe?

- What kind of roofing material do you have?
- How clean is your roof?
- What is the exterior of your house built out of?
- Are your eaves and vents closed up and screened?
- Have you screened in your balcony, deck or porch?
- How fire resistant are your windows or doors?
- Where is your woodpile located?

Do you know that during an emergency most people are rescued by their neighbours?

Would you like to participate in a Sandy Hook community preparedness plan? Let us know if you are prepared to help your neighbours during an emergency, if you have special skills or equipment you are willing to share, and if you might need assistance yourself from your neighbours. Let's be prepared as a community.

Please contact: Susan Soux – susansoux@gmail.com

For more information consult: http://embc.gov.bc.ca/em/hazard_preparedness/Earthquake_and_Tsunami_Smart_Manual.pdf

<http://embc.gov.bc.ca/ofc/interface/pdf/homeowner-firesmart.pdf>

A NEW AND FUN EVENT FOR SANDY HOOK: ASTRONOMY NIGHT JULY 26TH

Have you ever looked up at the night sky in Sandy Hook and wanted to see just a little more? Maybe it would be fun to see the moon a little closer. Or maybe someone mentioned Mars is close to the Earth and can be seen more easily with a good telescope. Or perhaps you just wanted to explore the stars and learn more about them.

On Saturday, July 26th you'll have your chance. The Sandy Hook Community Association and the Royal Astronomical Society's Sunshine Coast Centre are working together to provide you with opportunities to see much more of our night sky and to learn about what you will be seeing. Thanks to Sandy Hook Resident Charles Ennis, Society members will be setting up telescopes in the tot lot about 9:00 PM. All are invited to come, view the stars and planets, and learn more about what you are seeing.

We recommend this event to children, teenagers, and adults and promise you will be amazed at what you will see and learn.

The following article by Centre member Charles Ennis gives more information about the Centre as well as details about what we'll be seeing on July 26th.

- Editor

**JOIN SHCA: 2014 Membership
Form included in this newsletter**

ABOUT THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY'S SUNSHINE COAST CENTRE

Our Sunshine Coast Centre is the youngest centre within the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and this summer we are celebrating our tenth anniversary in June. We have monthly talks by astrophysicists with a "skies this month" feature presented by our members. We hold monthly "Astro Café" nights on which we set up our telescopes for the public to view the sky, weather permitting.

We run "star parties" for the public for the local Botanical Garden Harvest Festival, the Gibson's Sea Cavalcade, the Sechelt Night Street Market, Astronomy Day, Canada Day as well as for an Astronomy in the Park session in August in Porpoise Bay Provincial Park. We are also doing viewing sessions for local communities in Halfmoon Bay, Gibsons. We'll be teaching Girl Guides about astronomy at their gathering at Camp Olave this summer. We put information on our activities and astronomy news out on our Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Google+ pages as well as our website: www.coastastronomy.ca

We've just entered into a partnership with Coast Cable to produce a monthly half hour astronomy show for their cable network. This is costing us nothing: Coast Cable provides the studio and camera crews, we supply the scripts and

astronomers to appear in the show. This show features our astronomers providing information for those beginning in amateur astronomy and answering the public's questions on astronomical topics. Hopefully it will go on the air this summer. Also this summer we hope to complete our new observatory and celebrate first light. This is situated at Sechelt airport. Through savings, generous donations and a gaming grant we came up with the funds to make this dream possible.

The basic structure is up, the roof is about to be clad, wiring is about to be done, and we're hoping that our 14 inch Cassegrain telescope will be installed and operational this summer. We hope to have sessions there to allow the public to see deep sky wonders.

On the evening of July 26 our astronomers will set up our telescopes in Tot Park at the corner of Deerhorn and Skookumchuk in Sandy Hook to allow residents to view the night skies. This night will have a new moon, so it will be a good night for viewing deep sky objects, including: clusters, globular clusters, galaxies, nebulae, and Mars and Saturn.

The Centre may be contacted at:
info@coastastronomy.ca