

newsletter

Fall 2011

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVANCES

As part of the Annual General Meeting, the SHCA did a survey to find out what sorts of projects members might want to see the Association work on. Emergency preparedness was the favourite. The goal is to put in place a programme that will enable our community to be self sufficient for at least 72 hours shortly after a disaster.

Fortunately, lower Sandy Hook has successfully implemented such a program some time ago, so there's a model to follow. Melanie Vallieres, a Board director, volunteered to coordinate the project. She is in the process of building some teams. Obviously, SHCA needs volunteers to make it all happen. The basic structure is to have three or four area coordinators throughout Sandy Hook who could gather useful information regarding every household in their area. The information we need is how to reach you, how prepared your household is and what type of skills or assets you may have that can be useful in an emergency. The chosen leader would provide a central point in the event of an emergency and could possibly store emergency supplies at home and act as a resource. In the meantime you should consider assembling your own personal emergency kit. Here's a list (borrowed from www.Getprepared.ca):

Basic emergency kit shopping list: Water: two liters of water per person per day (include small bottles). Food that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods (replace once a year). Manual can opener. Wind-up or battery-powered flashlight (and extra batteries). Wind-up or battery-powered radio (and extra batteries). First aid kit. Special needs items (pet food, prescription medications, infant formula, equipment for people with disabilities). Extra keys for car and house. Cash; include smaller bills, such as \$10 bills and change for payphones.

Melanie has already met with Susan Soux and Marcia Mason who are interested in being involved in the process and have some experience with emergency planning. The program still need more coordinators. The more we have, the easier the task for everyone!

In order to be able to help your neighbor in a difficult situation, you should be prepared! The Association believes that an emphasis should be put on having every household ready to be self sufficient for at least 72 hours. We are considering using the Meet and Greet as a way of collecting

HEADS UP FOR THE MEET AND GREET

More than tentatively at this stage, the SHCA Board is scheduling the annual Meet and Greet for Saturday, January 21, 2012, between 7 and 9 pm. This is always a fun event, but it will be made more so by a couple of additions. It will be held at the Sunshine Coast Art Centre (Doris Crowston Gallery), 5714 Medusa (at Trail Avenue). Expect the usual good food (contributed by you and your fellow members) as well as drink and good cheer—that goes without saying. But there will be a couple of things added:

- We're planning on soliciting ideas for several projects, including Emergency Preparedness, improvements to Tot Park, modifications to the SHCA bylaws, the proposed Sandy Hook Community Plan, and other ventures. There will be poster boards with these projects described and plenty of room for people attending to insert their comments. In addition, there will be a Miscellaneous poster for attendees to add their own ideas. By the way, if you have an idea that you think might be appropriate for SHCA to tackle, you can always drop us an email at board@sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca. Such suggestions are always welcome.
- Kirk Exner, who acted as DJ and MC at the combined Lower Sandy Hook Pig Roast and SHCA summer party, will be on hand to provide music and his usual good cheer.
- The Meet and Greet will be combined with an invitation to the Hidden Grove Society to attend, and Bob D'Arcy, its president, has already indicated that this would be very workable. As you probably know, Hidden Grove is now a separate organization, but its genesis was as part of SHCA and it is near and dear to all of us.

Come one and all, and see the separate articles for information on Emergency Preparedness and Tot Park.

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data from SHCA members and to determine what general needs or concerns are present in the community.

Please call Melanie at 604 885-8810 if you would like to be part of this worthy process.

-- Submitted by Melanie Vallieres

MODIFICATIONS TO SHCA BY-LAWS COMING

SHCA is (technically speaking) a BC Society (it used to be called the Sandy Hook Rate Payers Association, but that was wisely modified many years ago). Its structure is governed (as are all societies) by its bylaws, which can only be changed by a vote at the Annual General Meeting (or a special general meeting called for that purpose). Although the structure has worked well in the past, the Board has noticed certain nagging little problems, which it has decided to try and fix, although the actual fixing won't take place until the AGM next year.

Nevertheless, members may want to see a copy of the latest draft, which will be posted on our website, at www.sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca, and a copy will likewise be posted and available at the Meet and Greet in January, ready for your suggestions and ideas. If after you read the changes and if you want to talk to a Board member about it, feel free to call Mike Hertz at 604-885-9041.

A SANDY HOOK COMMUNITY PLAN

Sandy Hook is part of Sechelt, and it is part of the Sechelt Community Plan. See pages 113-16 of the Plan at <http://www.district.sechelt.bc.ca/Portals/0/Public%20Document%20Library/Community%20Plans/OCP%20Bylaw%20492.pdf>. However, Sandy Hook is entitled to develop its own vision of its own future consistent with the plan for the larger community.

What should the future of Sandy Hook be? What goals should its residents have for the home area? And how should those goals be achieved? The Board would like to inspire the SHCA members to dream constructively and come up with a short list of what they would like to see, along with ideas on how to achieve them.

The Board intends to present a loose draft of such a Plan to the members and make it part of the "poster project" at the Meet and Greet. This will (hopefully) get input from the members and put specifics into the general thoughts in the draft.

So stay tuned—good things are happening.

SECOND ANNUAL SANDY HOOK TEA CUP A SUCCESS

The second annual Sandy Hook Tea Cup took place on Labour Day weekend. A "social event that happens to have" (Continued on page 3)

MAKING A SYMBOL FOR SANDY HOOK



Whenever we drive into Sandy Hook, we see the sign that was put up many years ago. Norm Towle knows its history and has undertaken to preserve it. He writes that "the sign was made from a large scrap log that lay directly on the ground. The man who originally made it lived on Skookumchuk, near Seaview. He was one of the Pioneers of Sandy Hook, also helping to put in the boat launch. He moved about 15 years ago and (sorry) I can't remember his name. About 10 or 12 years ago, the log was rotting and in terrible shape. You couldn't really see it any more, so I had some help hauling it to my house on Skookumchuk where I planed it into a plank to get rid of all the wood rot. After it completely dried, I could then give it several new coats of paint to restore it. Heather Waddell helped with the painting of the fish. Raised it on posts above the ground so it could be seen better. A few years ago, it was again looking a little dismal so I went up there and gave it a couple of new coats of paint again.

"What is destroying it is people putting up garage signs, lost dog signs, etc. etc. using large nails which then allows water to get into the center of the plank. I hope it isn't replaced as it has been around for as long as Sandy Hook has. This spring, if it needs another new coat, I'll do it again."

Thanks much, Norm, for all your hard work and care.
[Bob D'Arcy thinks Jan de Bruyn made the original sign.]

But here's a question: should we use that symbol on our website? Should we modify it? Should we come up with something entirely different? (See below for a photo of the actual sign, a modification, and something "completely different.") There are lots of artists and creative people in Sandy Hook, and perhaps one (or more) might like to try a hand at creating something for us to use. Or maybe the old sign is really what everyone likes.

If you come up with something you want to share, send it to Mike at mmmickey55@yahoo.com. We'll make the idea of having a symbol one of the things on the Meet and Greet poster board so that everyone can participate.





Boat Launch Improvement Project – Update

The boat launch is partially completed. The second phase will take place in early 2012. If you have a boat located on the left hand side of the boat launch we encourage you to remove your boat, for now, in advance of the District's work. These improvements are being facilitated by the SHCA and your input is important to us so please contact Kirk Exner at 604-885-7196 if you have any concerns. Remember, the SHCA is a volunteer organization and we help communicate the needs and interests of our entire community to the District of Sechelt in order to secure the support of the District of Sechelt for such enhancements. Although we are a representative board, as you can imagine it is very challenging to meet all the needs or implement all of the suggestions from the community. Special thanks to Peter Harvey for spearheading the first phase of the boat launch improvement.

Tot Park Improvement Project

In the District of Sechelt's 2012 budget Sandy Hook has been allocated \$5,000 towards a small gazebo and other improvements in Tot Park. The District is committed to improving the aesthetics and usability of Tot Park in Sandy Hook. At the upcoming Meet and Greet, the SHCA will present a number of gazebo design options and we will be soliciting our communities input as to how to improve the park. Your ideas are welcome! SHCA President Kirk Exner will be in regular communication with the District and if you are unable to attend the Meet and Greet to express your ideas or concerns feel free to send him an email at president@sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca – SHCA is committed to facilitating our community's needs during this process. In addition to the \$5,000 budget from the District of Sechelt we also have a generous donation pledged from a Sandy Hook resident towards a memorial bench for the park. If you would like to make a donation to the Tot Park improvement project please contact Kirk.

---Submitted by Kirk Exner

EXERCISING YOUR OPTIONS

I go to the Sechelt Aquatic Centre at least three times a week and enjoy it a lot. It's one of the best all around activity centres that I've ever seen, let alone one in such a small community—a huge pool, with spa, steam room, and sauna, a big water slide, a wonderful heated shallow pool, great changing areas, a great weight room, dance and aerobics studio, and ever increasing schedules of classes. The place was really well planned and functions terrifically (aside from a few mechanical problems which hopefully will be solved without too many mishaps). I do wonder whether the general health of our community has improved because more people are using such a facility. Perhaps we'll find out in the future.

But here's a big mystery to me. I look over the classes for adults, and whether they are for swimming or aerobics or whatever, there are always far more women than men. In fact, I went to a very vigorous weight and stretch workout (led by the inspiring Linda), and I was shocked to find that I was the only man in a group of 30 women (of all ages, heights and weights). So, why is that? Do men get their exercise walking or running or playing golf or tennis or whatever? Or are there just far more women than men in Sechelt? I do not know, but I wonder. Opinions on this topic would be welcome.

---- Submitted by Mike Hertz

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some sailing," it was hosted at Paul and Ivana Cappelletto's place. This year we had more than ten boats (all but one being a Laser). Richard Sterling prevailed and will, for the second year, have his name affixed to the Sandy Hook Tea Cup. Congratulations Richard! This fun event was followed on the the next weekend by the Snake Bay Sailing Club Regatta. All Sandy Hook'ers are encouraged to take an interest in these great events next year.

Some people have asked about the name "Sandy Hook Tea Cup." In this context the name "Tea Cup" dates back to the late 60's and the very beginning of the Laser boat. The "The America's Teacup Regatta" inspired the design of the Laser boat. The famous Canadian boat designer, Bruce Kirby, designed the Laser (called the Weekender at the time). It was first sailed by another Canadian, Hans Fogh, and competed in a fleet of Lasers plus wind surfers (also just emerging).

The Laser boat has been a massive hit, and its history (American and Canadian) being so intertwined, it seemed a great name for our event. (Reference: <http://www.sail-world.com/UK/The-American-Tea-Cup-Regatta---where-it-all-began/76372>)

-- Submitted by Peter Harvey