

Sechelt Village Voice

Presidents Report

Greetings,

Let us hope by the time you receive this Newsletter, Spring will finally have made its appearance. It has been a long and drawn out Winter. When the Sun comes out we all seem to want to worship it. At the request of some members we are considering holding up to 3 membership meetings annually to keep you apprised of ongoing events of our Association.

Thus, we are planning our first meeting on Monday evening April 20 at 7:00 pm at the Greenecourt Hall. We will be serving coffee, tea and cookies. As well, we are arranging a guest speaker, Shane Vernon to talk to us regarding BCSTV, electoral reform in B.C.

The entire meeting should not take more than one and one half hours and we will update you on the upcoming budget and how our capital projects proposals fit in with the new Council, our new Chief financial Officer and our 2009 budget.

Most importantly, we want to hear your concerns and issues for the Village and welcome this opportunity to meet with you. As well if you know of any newcomers we would like to welcome them, and offer them any assistance we can in becoming Sechelt Villagers. Bring them along for the meeting. If you need a ride to the Hall, call me at (604) 740-5979

See you there,
Douglas

General Meeting

Greenecourt Hall
5583 Ocean Ave.
April 20, 2009
Time: 7:00

Agenda

1. Meet and Greet, renew memberships, sign new members
2. Call to order
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Adoption of minutes of 2008 A G M
5. Business arising from minutes
6. Guest Speaker(s)
7. Reports to Members
 - a. President's report & acknowledgements
 - b. Treasurer's report
 - c. Secretary's report
8. New Business
 - a.
9. Comments and questions
10. Adjournment

Member's Meeting
Greenecourt Hall
With guest speaker Shane Vernon
On Electoral Reform in British Columbia
April 20, 2009
Time: 7:00

We need Help!
Your Village Residents
Association needs members to
join our executive. Many hands
make light work. Please help us
to be a strong voice for our
Village residents.

Officers & Directors

President: Doug Smith	kdouglass@dccnet.com
Vice-President Ken Croizier	kenandsue@telus.net
Treasurer: Jim Lafferty	jimlafferty@dccnet.com
Secretary: Susan Nelson	kenandsue@telus.net
Past Pres./Director: Don Robb	drobb@dccnet.com
Director: Jack Collins	

Contact Information:

www.sechelt.net

village@sechelt.net

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Email Updates

Would you like to receive Village updates by email?
To be added to the email list, send your email address to—
village@sechelt.net
Sent as blind copies.

Official Community Plan Revision

The OCP (Official Community Plan) Revision is still progressing and should be ready for District of Sechelt Council by the Fall.

There was an Open House to solicit community feed-back on April 06. Thank you to those who attended. If you missed it, there will be another one in early May.

Currently Susan Stratis, the consultant who is writing the revised OCP, is sifting through community, business and Councils' advice and is writing a first draft of the plan.

The time line for completion of a final draft to be submitted to District of Sechelt Council is late summer.

It is very important that residents take the opportunity at the next open house to become familiarized with the plan and make comment. The Village business community has made sure their needs and concerns have been heard, let us make sure Village residents have a full say as well!

Ken Croizier

Electoral Reform First Past the Post or BC-Single Transferable Vote?

B.C. voters go to the poles next month to elect a new Provincial government, and to vote on a referendum asking voters if they wish to reform our system of voting. We are to choose "First Past the Post" or "BC- Single Transferable Vote". The following two items are selections from the campaign opposing BC-STV and the campaign supporting BC-STV.

The No Side

STV is complicated, confusing, prone to errors and delay, it reduces local accountability, increases the size of ridings, allows MLAs to avoid direct accountability for their decisions, increases party control and allows special interests to dominate party nominations. It also hasn't been proven to do many of the things its proponents claim -- like increase the ability of third parties and independents to get elected, and it is not truly proportional in guaranteeing that each party will get the number of seats in the Legislature equivalent to the percentage of votes they received. *From www.NOSTV.org*

The Yes Side

We currently use a "first-past-the-post" system where only the candidate representing the largest block of voters wins. Candidates from one party can sweep a whole region even if a majority of voters choose other parties. Smaller parties and independents are shut out entirely. Parties often win 60% of the seats with 40% of the votes. At best, only half of voters get representation and because parties run head to head for each seat, elections are often negative and politics are centralized. *From www.STV-ca*

Medusa St.

On the positive side the washrooms & concession at Hackett Park, built by the Rotary Club, were completed last spring and used during the season for a number of events, serving the usual concession food which seemed to please many residents.

The Lions Housing Society 103 unit "Greenecourt"

development was expected to start this spring. However, the provincial gov't. through BC Housing has not as yet released the long promised money needed to move forward on this much needed seniors housing project, causing stress & uncertainty for the Lions Housing Society. This development will be built in two stages. The first stage being a four story building at the south end of the property adjacent to the French school playing field. This development is expected to be somewhat rent subsidized for those that meet the "SAFER" (Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters) program. This is encouraging with the growing demand for this type of housing. Although a development permit was issued almost a year ago there is no sign of start-up for the "Walter Burtnick" senior's condo. This high end rental development was to be built immediately to the North of Chatelech High School playing field. One could speculate that the downturn in the real-estate market has postponed start-up along with the 15 lot subdivision adjacent to and East of this property. Although the survey work the road & infrastructure are completed there is no sign of breaking ground for housing starts. The SVCA (Sechelt Village Community Association) has requested a walkway be built along the Northerly boundary of Hackett park from the baseball backstop down the hill to Trail Ave. There is no safe pedestrian pathway along this dark route with uneven ground creating a hazard for the many elderly Village residents that use this route while attending functions at or taking daily walks.

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