

# **Hornby Island Residents' & Ratepayers' Association**

## **President's Annual Report (2007) to the Annual General Meeting**

It was a busy year for HIRRA and the executive. One of my personal highlights was being part of an executive team that worked so well together and who are so dedicated and committed to their roles.

### **Administration:**

The more time I spend in the HIRRA executive the more I recognize the vital contribution being made by Janet LeBlancq who looks after various and assorted details behind the scenes to keep the organization running smoothly. Janet coordinated the replacement of the flooring in the doctor's office, the volunteers' orientation, the tenancy agreements with HIES and HIAC, water quality testing and septic pump-outs, insurance renewals and on and on. And she does it all so well.

### **Community Awareness:**

In May HIRRA sponsored two public forums to help keep the community informed. The first focused on a better understanding of the workings of the Islands Trust. Keynote speakers were Linda Adams, COO Islands Trust and Kim Benson, Chair Trust Council. The second was a "meet and greet" with the RCMP members assigned to Hornby for the summer.

### **Financial matters:**

A new "travel expense reimbursement" policy was developed to provide clarity around what is covered when people travel on HIRRA business and how they get reimbursed for those expenses. The process seems to be working fine.

Tenancy Agreements were signed with both HIAC and HIES (Hope Kitchen). These Agreements included a \$300/yr cost recovery fee. As a result of member feedback, this fee was waived for the Hope Kitchen and will be reviewed in 2009.

We are proud of the work completed by HIRRA's very many busy committees and we commend them for managing their areas well, and within their budgets.

### **People:**

In March of 2007 Stani Veselinovic accepted the position of Manager of the Recycling Depot. This past year has allowed Stani to demonstrate his competence and he did so from the beginning. We look forward to Stani and his team continuing to bring positive developments and improvements.

We had bad news and good news about our Bookkeeper. Our much beloved Rudy Rogalsky, after serving this role for four years, handed in his resignation at year's end. Rudy did a tremendous job, was appreciated and will be missed, not only for his technical competence but also for his warm personality. The good news is that Basil du Plessis is our new bookkeeper, selected from a very strong field of applicants.

**Land:**

HIRRA's Nominal Rent Tenure application for the 5.8 acres between Joe King and The Hall was rejected by Crownlands. The main reason for their unfavourable decision was HIRRA's under-utilization of its current 10 acres. As a result we began a process to better utilize this land for community purposes. Permission was subsequently granted by Crownlands, Forestry and Highways to construct a Community Green space in the woodland between the RCMP and the Home Support building. The construction of the entrances and access ring-road has been completed. We are looking forward to finishing this project to provide a wonderful venue for community events and for the farmer's market

**Technology:**

HIRRA began its technological journey in 2006 with the introduction of microphones and an amplifier to make it easier for people to hear deliberations. 2007 saw the purchase of a new laptop computer which our Administrator uses to record general meeting minutes and much more. As well, HIRRA used a computer and powerpoint projector to present most of its 2008 proposed budgets. Feedback from members was good, indicating that it was not only easier to follow the presentations, but that it saved on paper waste.

**Ideas and Creativity:**

Some new ideas were presented by the executive to the membership. Some, like the Elder Council idea, were quickly rejected, and others like the annual road-side cleanup and the Kids' Easter Egg Hunt, were heartily welcomed. We will continue to present new ideas to the membership for consideration and we look forward to the usual honest and direct feedback.

**Confusion:**

There was lots of this as a result of a draft report about our recycling depot that was sent out by the CSRD Manager of Operations in September. This draft concluded by listing four options for waste management on Hornby – three of them very controversial. Our Depot Team drafted an excellent response and we are still waiting to see what happens next. The confusion continued as a result of a presentation by consultants who were contracted by the CSRD to make recommendations regarding services on Hornby - like sewage, community well, fire department, depot, land sales. This confusing presentation caught the attention of many, and we are still waiting to see what will happen next.

**The Future:**

HIRRA's 5-year service contract with the CSRD expired on December 31, 2007 but was extended by one year by mutual consent. With the split up of the regional district, the dissolution of Area K and the subsequent loss of our vital Area K Director's position, we should be in for quite an interesting and unpredictable future.

Finally, on behalf of the executive, I would like to sincerely thank all of HIRRA's volunteers who put in so many hours of their precious time and energy to help keep our little Island running smoothly.

Ron Sitter, President HIRRA  
March 12, 2008