

# Hornby Island Residents' & Ratepayers' Association

## President's Annual Report

March 1, 2009 – Feb 28, 2010

I have now completed four years as President of HIRRA and continue to experience the truth behind the saying “none of us are as smart as all of us”. Once again I thank my fellow executive members for their commitment and energy. Rudy Rogalsky, HIRRA's newly elected Treasurer, hit the road running and has become a vital member of our team. Len Olsen, our HIRRA Secretary for four years will be resigning his office. We will miss Len and his perspectives on community issues, and thank Len for his years of dedicated service.

Last fall I started to leave Hornby more frequently to do contract work in Nanaimo. As a result I missed meetings that were subsequently chaired by our capable Vice-President Lynn Nunley. Thank you Lynn for enthusiastically stepping in so many times when needed.

A special thank you goes out to the duPlessis family. Donna, for her dependable provisions of cookies and refreshments at our monthly meetings. Basil for his competent handling of HIRRA's bookkeeping records and transactions. Thank you both for your special contributions.

Janet LeBlancq continues to demonstrate her skilled administrative talents behind the scenes. Janet saved HIRRA \$4,000 on insurance alone last year and continually looks for opportunities to make things better. Thank you Janet.

We thank our Island Trustees who voluntarily and regularly attended HIRRA meetings to update our members. HIRRA's Trails Committee was given very special recognition as a recipient of the Islands Trust Stewardship Award in 2009. This was a high tribute to all those volunteers who contributed so much to develop our road-side non-motorized trails network.

HIRRA's second annual Easter Egg hunt at the Copse was a big success, as was the Farmers Market summer season. The Copse receives regular positive reviews by both visitors and residents. The second bike rack installed by HIRRA at the Copse was continuously filled to overflow capacity.

In 2009 HIRRA received approval from both the Ministry of Forests and the Integrated Land Management Bureau to permit the construction of expanded health care facilities on HIRRA leased land. That paved the way for a full-on development process by the Hornby-Denman Community Health Care Society. The Savoie Clinic facility that will be vacant once the new health care facilities are built still has no firm plans however we are expecting some interesting proposals.

The Fall Fair brought in a very high attendance and seems to get better every year. We will always remember the 2009 parade leader - our centenarian Roy Matheson – in his battery powered buggy. Thank you to all the members of the committee who worked so hard to pull this off so well.

One of the few disappointments in the year was the lack of progress on the recycling depot redesign and development. After many meetings, much money spent on consultants, and many promises of a fall 2009 construction start, we find ourselves still waiting for tangible results. We thank the recycling depot committee and the Manager for all their time invested and for your rigorous involvement in the process.

The HIRRA creativity award for 2009 goes out to the recycling committee and manager for their fundraising T-shirts that read “Recycling makes me Hornby”.

The government land claims negotiating team notified HIRRA that in addition to the 10 hectare crown land in the initial offer, an additional 2.5 hectares had been added to provide a continuous land parcel between Carmichael Road and Sollans Road. This additional piece includes .01 hectare currently leased by HIRRA which contains the Sollans Road water well. The negotiation is ongoing.

The HIRRA executive spearheaded some new budget initiatives to respond to community needs. HIRRA was successful in securing new annual budget money from the Regional District for both summer garbage cleanup at Big Tribune Beach and other public areas, and for invasive plant control. We were not successful in securing tax funding for the Community Kitchen or for Cemetery maintenance.

As is usual, there are many challenges greeting us in this new year – a hall septic system, an expanded cemetery, taking over management of the beach access areas, and progress on the Fire Hall Options initiative to mention just a few.

A big bouquet goes out to all the HIRRA volunteer committee members and staff who have contributed so much during the year accomplishing so many good things for our community. You are the ones who make it all work so well. Please never feel taken for granted – we do acknowledge the important part you play on Hornby. The HIRRA executive is honoured to be serving with this group of people.

I would like to close this report with a special thanks to all of you who regularly attend these HIRRA meetings and contribute your ideas and support. By keeping our focus on what is best for the community – we will accomplish amazing things. Thank you all.

Ron Sitter  
President, HIRRA