



Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association
P.O. Box 16, Hornby Island B.C. V0R 1Z0

**Vice President's report to the Annual General Meeting of
Hornby Island Residents' & Ratepayers' Association:
as presented by Daniel Siegel, March 14, 2012**

This has been a busy, if not flashy, year for HIRRA and its executive. I've written and delivered this report on behalf of our president, Lynn Nunley, who was called away on short notice for a family emergency. Any errors in it are my responsibility; all the good stuff is a credit to the gentle, yet firm and clear leadership that Lynn provides and which keeps the rest of us motivated and in line.

2011 saw the culmination of many years of preparation and innovation on the part of HIRRA, the Union Bay Credit Union, the Comox Valley Regional District, and other community and regional organizations.

1. We completed the negotiation of a long term lease with the Union Bay Credit Union. These negotiations were conducted in a spirit of collaboration and trust and included consulting on the major renovations, the provision of an office space available to the community. The Credit Union paid the bulk of the costs and continues to absorb the cost of Hydro. The space is already being used by HICEEC on a regular schedule and, in the summer, we are anticipating that it will also be the recreation coordinator's office space. HIRRA will assume management responsibility for the space for at least the first full year of its availability.
2. We also concluded negotiating the terms of the five year service agreement between HIRRA and the CVRD for the provision of the following services: Recycling/Waste Management; Fire Protection/1st Responders; Community Hall operations; Regional and Community Beach Access Parks maintenance and development; and the Comfort Station maintenance. This involved several members of the HIRRA executive along with Janet going to Courtenay to meet with the regional district staff. In advance, we had all carefully reviewed the draft agreement and we came with our questions and suggestions, all of which were received well and most were incorporated into the final agreement. This included the small, but very important change that allows for the regional district to spend our tax dollars on hall repairs and also their advice on concerns where an outside opinion would be useful, such as in choosing the best septic field system for our community.
3. Negotiating a long term lease with HDCHCS for the continued and expanded occupation of HIRRA leased crown land, for the housing of the "Home Support building" and the Hornby Community Health Clinic, opened in April 2011.

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4. Stewarding a review and revision of the HIRRA web site: www.hirra.ca. The website is now clearer, very easy to navigate, and increases our transparency by clearly showing how to access minutes, reports, vision statements, and other documents.

5. Consulting and overseeing renovations to the Green Room Suite of the Community Hall, including the festival office. This included new flooring and overhead lighting.

6. HIRRA's agenda included public forum opportunities for people to raise concerns regarding issues of local importance. These included the siting of a coal mine on Vancouver Island and concerns about and opposition to the installation of BC Hydro smart meters. HIRRA also sponsored one of the two all candidates meetings prior to the recent Island Trust elections.

7. The Easter Egg Hunt was a fun spring time affair and ongoing consultations and support of the Market at the Copse continue.

8. Your HIRRA executive has also maintained close and supportive relationships with our committees and I will leave the issues with which they have been dealing to committee chairs and their reports. And let me take this opportunity to thank all of our committee chairs and members for the extraordinary commitment they show. This has been a year of challenges for some of our committees and they have risen to these challenges in ways that have allowed us to face difficult issues in ways which have strengthened our sense of community and the shared responsibility we have for one another.

In conclusion, I want to thank our outgoing treasurer, Rudy Rogalsky, for his years of service to HIRRA. Rudy has been a real partner to Basil DuPlessis in keeping on top of the financial statements and any anomalies that happen to show up and we will miss him on the executive. I also want to thank Carol Quin for her first year of service. The experience in working with the regional district which she brings to the table, along with her intelligence, has made us the richer and we're glad that she's willing to stand for the remainder of Rudy's term. It almost goes without saying, but that would be a serious omission, that we could not be who we are nor do what we do without the presence and support of our administrator, Janet LeBlancq. Her grasp of the issues, the reservoir of good feelings that she has carefully filled in her dealings with the regional district, her efficiency and good grace make a world of difference for us.

Finally, and I can say this only in her absence, we are all so grateful to Lynn Nunley. She has grown into the presidency of HIRRA in a graceful and modest way while demonstrating an amazing ability to learn, to manage, to connect the dots, and to inspire us to want to work on her team. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to express that appreciation in person when she returns from Texas.