

ON THE 12TH OF MARCH, 2014, PRECISELY AT 7:30PM, BEGINS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HORNBY ISLAND RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION (HIRRA).

Yawn. Another AGM on the calendar. Why should I want to come???

Have you been to the Fire Hall Open House or called out our trained fabulous Fire & Rescue Volunteers for First Responder or Fire assistance? Wow!

Do you appreciate our Recycling Centre and Free Store?

Do you ever walk or ride on one of our many trails?

Do you picnic at Sandpiper, enjoy the sunset at Grassy Point, appreciate the hiddenness of Hidden Beach?

Have you enjoyed the Fall Fair and the parade with which it begins?

Has your family made use of our adult year round and summer children's programs?

Do you receive comfort knowing that we have a cemetery and relief when suddenly overtaken and finding there is a port-a-potty where you are?

Come to applaud our volunteers by voting them onto the committees they have decided to join.

The AGM is our chance to thank those volunteers and offer our appreciation.

ALL THESE, AND SO MUCH MORE, FUNCTION ONLY BECAUSE VOLUNTEERS, 75 OF THEM (!), FORM THE MANY COMMITTEES OF HIRRA.

THE AGM IS ALSO A CHANCE TO JOIN ONE OF THE COMMITTEES WHICH STILL HAS A VACANCY OR AT LEAST TO LISTEN TO THE REPORTS AND GO HOME TO THINK ABOUT WHICH COMMITTEE YOU WILL JOIN THE NEXT TIME THERE IS A VACANCY.

HIRRA is our vehicle for self-government, for preserving and enhancing the beauty of our island and for protecting it. HIRRA needs all of us.

And did you know that we often have coffee and home baked cookies at HIRRA meetings?

So come and be part of this once a year moment when we appreciate the work of the past year and commit to the next.

The association has 10 general meetings a year, always on the second Wednesday at 7:30pm. We adjourn in January and August. We estimate that HIRRA's 75 volunteers who contribute to the operations of the Fire Department, Recycling Depot, Community Hall, Mount Geoffrey Regional and Community Parks and upland Crown land Trails, Roadside Trails, Recreation, Fall Fair, Privy Council, Cemetery and the Executive Committee clock up more than 12,000 hours per year. This is an incredible investment in our participatory democracy.

The Hornby Island Residents' & Ratepayers' Association (HIRRA) is a nonprofit society registered in the province of B.C. since 1973. Through this association we have an opportunity to be self-governing. HIRRA administers our tax dollars, and as its name implies, membership is open to residents and property owners of the island.

***This is an excerpt from a Published article in the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, March 1, 2014***

***Authored by Lynn Nunley and Daniel Siegel and read at the AGM by Janet LeBlancq.***