

## **Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association President's Report to the Annual General Meeting 2007**

Being voted in as the president of HIRRA last year was somewhat intimidating in view of the quality of my predecessors, Fred Hunt and Judith Lawrence to name but two. I had a shaky start by having to miss the first general meeting after the elections. To no-one's surprise, Lynn Nunley did a great job chairing, and as a result I was already learning that our effectiveness as an executive team was far stronger than me as an individual. I have relied on and benefited continually from collaboration with this team. I very much appreciate the help and support that I have received from Lynn Nunley, Paul Clemens, Len Olsen and Janet LeBlancq.

2006 brought many challenges – including Mother Nature. We came to the September regular meeting armed with candles and flashlights due to a power outage. It looked more like a séance than a meeting of HIRRA! The December meeting was cancelled altogether due to extreme weather. In spite of all this, attendance was good throughout the year with all meetings having a quorum and recording as many as 65 members.

After the March 2006 AGM, HIRRA held its first orientation session for newly elected committee members. After introductions we reviewed policies, roles and responsibilities. Feedback from participants was positive and we will likely do it again.

A member request resulted in HIRRA adopting the use of microphones and an amplifier. General consensus was that, although a little more awkward, this resulted in more effective communication and a better meeting all around.

### **Financial matters:**

- The depot's composting toilet caused quite a stir in the community with some expressing their delight with the finished facility and others concerned about the lack of cost control accountability by HIRRA. A special audit was conducted by a third-party and recommendations were reviewed with the membership. The recommendations resulted in the development of a new HIRRA policy called "Capital Acquisitions Management". Depot staff has raised over \$8,000 in donations and sales of DVD's and tee shirts to replace money used from HIRRA's reserve fund to pay for the construction costs of the project. Well done, team.
- Our property insurance premium for the Hall, Clinic and Trails liability continued to grow to \$8,200 annually.
- Area K Regional Director, Carol Quin, attended the majority of HIRRA meetings through the year and set a fine example for organizations working together constructively. We thank our Regional Director for the \$2,500 grant-in-aid to the Cemetery Committee.
- Due to new requirements, Meyers Norris Penny LLP was appointed as HIRRA's new auditor this year. We thank Lloyd Neufeld for his excellent audits over the last ten years.
- Throughout the year the HIRRA Executive coordinated a review and update of all HIRRA's policies with input from all committees. These policies included committee terms of reference, employment and contracting and financial policies. Whew! We're all glad it's done.

**There were many developments on HIRRA's personnel front:**

- Lynn Nunley replaced Suzel Bernier as Hall Booking Agent. We thank Suzel for her 7 years of excellent work. Lynn seems to have hit the road running.
- Bonita Wexler was awarded the recreation co-ordinator contract and is doing a great job.
- With the dissolution of the co-manger arrangement at the recycling depot, the executive has participated with a recycling sub-committee in the recruitment of a manager.
- A new pay structure was developed for HIRRA staff and contractors. This was done to make sure that each job is paid at a level that is fair for the nature of the work performed relative to the pay allotted to other HIRRA jobs.
- A customized "performance appraisal and development" form was developed for both the Depot Manager and the HIRRA Administrator positions.

**Some other highlights include:**

- Due to the efforts of Fred Hunt and Serena Laskin, HIRRA has now made formal written application to the Ministry of Community Services to request their sponsorship of our application for a Nominal Rent Tenure of the 2.35 hectares (5.8 acres) of crown land between the Hall and Joe King Park. We are hopeful that this application will lead to a successful outcome resulting in a new parking lot, an expanded farmer's market and other community amenities. Hornby's local trustees have passed a resolution to support HIRRA in this initiative.
- We welcomed a new resident onto HIRRA's leased crown land. The Hornby Island Arts Council (HIAC) did a great job siting and landscaping around their structure.
- Water sampling became a new responsibility of HIRRA during the year. New regulations by VIHA transferred this responsibility to HIRRA. As a result, Janet coordinates regular sampling and testing of water from the Community Hall, Pre-School, Room-to-Grow, the Clinic and the Sollans Road well. Janet does a lot of behind the scenes work – we thank her for it all.
- Municipal Insurance Association liability inspections were held at the recycling depot, the community hall and the fire hall in September and will result in a number of significant changes to these facilities over the next year, e.g., new stove in the hall, new facilities plan for the depot and more to follow.
- A HIRRA family Tree was developed that listed the names of all HIRRA executive members since inception of our non-profit society. This tree still has a few nameless years on it and can be found on HIRRA's website. If you can fill in any of the missing names, please call.

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 March 14, 2007