

Hornby Island Parks Committee Annual Report June 2020

Another busy season is behind us and its AGM time again. The parks continue to be a major jewel in Hornby's crown for use by both on and off island outdoor folks. We have seen small budget increases to cover slowly rising operational costs and we continue to get excellent value from the Parks Contractor and via our relationship with Hornby Island Mtn Bike Association -- our local cycling advocacy and trail stewardship group.

Here are some highlights of the year.

- Reviewed and renewed parks contractor job description, contract and pay schedule.
- Improved year round access to side of road trail along St Johns Pt Road and School Trail with the addition of high quality rock and gravel to maintain access during high water events and prevent erosion and mud.
- Took on management of Hornby Road Side Trails
- Oversaw the cleanup of the burnt boats at Grassy Point including removal of scrap, decontamination of the site and general clean up
- Invasive species removal at Hidden Beach, Crown Lands and Mt Geoffrey
- Replacement of the aging built up trail to Tralee Pt.
- Investigating location for permanent latrines at Grassy Point and Sandpiper Beach Park (Sandpiper Beach latrine to be installed in 2020)
- Working with various agencies to allow a very well received multi day bike event to unfold in Strachan Valley
- Extensive planning and site meetings with CVRD and public in regard to the proposed Gull Road Trail upgrade (again to create year-round dry access)
- Many volunteer work parties (overseen by Parks Contractor) including upgrades to Spasm Chasm, Bitchin Camaro, and Purgatory

Regular maintenance:

- Includes end to end brushing and sight line improvement on Roadside Trails
- Seasonal trimming at Grassy Point • Mowing helicopter landing areas (for fire suppression) as well as the meadow at Sandpiper Beach Park.
- Maintaining accessible access to Sandpiper Beach
- Keeping ditches, culverts, and French drains in working order.
- Replacing mesh on built up technical trail features and bridges.
- Improving drainage and water shedding in Mt Geoffrey and Crown
- Investigating a new route for a connection between Roadside Trails and French Connection via the Hornby Island Recycling Depot that is off road and family friendly
- Ongoing repairs to bridges and trail features
- Additional signs installed and other signage adjusted thanks to public feedback
- Addressing unauthorized trail building and bringing local youth into HIMBA to continue their relationship with the trails under the guidance and supervision of the Parks Contractor and senior HIMBA members
- Overseeing trail repairs and upgrades (bottom of Devils Kitchen) paid for and done by HIMBA members
- Fire patrols, litter pickup, beach trash consolidation, map production and lots of volunteer meetings during normal working hours too!

Submitted by Sasha LeBaron, Committee member

2019 Recycling Report to the HIRRA membership June, 2020 AGM

2019 was been a busy one for the Hornby Island Recycling Depot, and started off with sending Hornby Island and the Recycling Depot into the deep freeze and Scott Hardy worked many hours clearing the recycling depot road and parking lot to provide access for our patrons.

In January five staff members completed an Occupational 1st Aid level 1 training course. We have installed flags on our parking bollards to help drivers see the bollards as they are backing up towards them. We have installed an Eyewash Station that provides 15 minutes of clean tempered water and thus meets the new ANSI standards. Moving forward, our staff will be re-trained in WHMIS, WVH, TDG and other required training.

We were shipping two forty-foot bins of recycling weekly and a cube van load of refundables weekly in the peak of the summer and we were shipping two to four bins of waste weekly of the island. There seemed to be a fair amount of construction going on as almost 50% of the waste we ship of island was Construction & Demolition waste. With the ever-expanding scope of recyclables we were collecting over 50 separate streams. Way more than your average Blue Bin Program in the rest of this beautiful province. Did you know that the Blue Box program does not collect glass, Styro Foam packaging and “crinkly” plastics?

It is interesting to hear from patrons that live in other urban centres how much more can be disposed of in an environmentally consciences fashion here at the Hornby Island Recycling Depot. And how convenient our one stop centre is. Visitors are impressed how we divert electronics, electric appliances, tires, oil, paint, batteries, scrap metal, compostables and household hazardous wastes in one single location.

We should all be proud for leading the way in recycling and the collecting of end-of-life products and diverting these streams in an environmentally sound fashion.

The shelves of the Free Store are always socked by great group of volunteers and many visitors to the island are enjoying the goods up for offer.

For those who are interested the solar panel array has produced 35.3 Mega watts total of clean energy to date.

Thanks to the CVRD for our new backhoe shed this summer. This new shed will serve us well in the future protecting our backhoe especially during heavy snow falls. The CVRD also provided a concrete pad adjacent to the recycling building. This enabled us to place a recycling bin on the same level as the recycling building and load the bin without the use of a backhoe.

In August the Recycling Depot staff joined the Canadian Union of Public Employees and a Collective agreement was ratified in February of 2020.

Alsoon Brine and Barbara Baird of the recycling committee designed and co-ordinated the logistics of bringing the “Pocket Ashtrays” to Hornby. Discarded butts leach toxins into the environment and cause countless wildfires. These pocket ashtrays help prevent wildfires and prevent the leaching of toxins into the environment. They were being distributed for free (a donation was suggested but not required) at many locations on the island and as well as at the recycling depot. Who knows? Perhaps soon we can also add cigarette butts to our collection stream.

We want to thank all free store volunteers who come up to the recycling depot instead of spending their summertime at the beach or in the gardens.

Thank you to HIRRA, the recycling committee, and all HIRRA staff for making the recycling depot a pleasure to manage.

By Stani, Depot Manager

HORNBY RECREATION HIRRA AGM 2020 Report

Hornby Recreation was able to run a full summer of programs for 2019. Our summer 2019 programs included soccer, circus, sailing, ocean swim lessons, tennis and a new self defense program. Our biggest challenge for 2019 was finding the most appropriate venue to operate out of with no school gym. We used Joe King Club house, Room to Grow and the multi-modular at our Community School. All of our instructors that use the old school gym space were accommodating in re-structuring their program and we had smaller groups. Our sailing program was very well attending. We had MOSS come over from Vancouver and host 2 weeks of sailing. Many participants signed up for both weeks and covered a lot of water, sailing to Denman and back, learning new skills. MOSS is a program hosted by BC Sailing where two certified CYA Sailing instructors travel to smaller communities bringing all their own boats and gear and help introduce or re-introduce sailing to the community. MOSS really gave our sailing program the spark it needed and connected us with potential future sailing instructors to run our own independent sailing program. Overall, summer 2019 was a success.

Throughout the fall we ran two age groups of soccer and a fall tennis session. A huge thank you goes out to HITA for their on-going support in youth tennis.

We hosted 2 family dances partnering up with June Cannon and the band. These dances were well attended, and the funds raised from these events went directly back into youth programming for Recreation as well as youth music, like fiddle lessons.

This Spring we had started up our Ravens Soccer team. It was so well attended we were able to build two teams this year and had 2 separate opportunities for our teams to play in Courtenay at the world series for league soccer and as well at the Comox Valley Soccer Jamboree. It is so amazing to see our kid's inspiration and drive to play on a team and watch them compete in town. Their skill level and what they learned in such a short period of time is outstanding.

Spring tennis sessions were scheduled as well as off- island swimming lessons at the Comox Aquatic Centre. Hornby Recreation was also excited to run our first outdoor Nature Program run by Jala Klone and Cindy Auckland. This program was based on learning through exploration in our local forests and beaches to co-create themes and topics related to Hornby's ecological/bio-regional diversity. They were going to explore the local environment and document their learning through hands-on approach using forms of artistic expression.

On March 16, 2020, our province put into place social distancing and social isolating protocols due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. All our programs were cancelled to ensure the safety of our youth, instructors and community and to adhere to government suggestions and safety guidelines.

During this pandemic we have continued to tentatively plan for the summer and brainstorm what social distance programming could look like for when and if regulations were lifted by July 2020. We have continued to communicate as a Soccer team and have been sharing videos of soccer drills put together but some local enthusiastic soccer players.

As we move into this next phase, re-emerging from social isolation and quarantines, Hornby Recreation is brainstorming what is next in terms of programming. We are looking into the ability to run short Soccer sessions with 3-4 players at a time. These will be drill-based to enhance soccer skills. We are also looking into small tennis groups and will continue to follow government guidelines and safety protocols to ensure the safety of all participants, instructors and our community.

Summer planning is underway with very flexible dates and program ideas of what we can offer to keep within these safety guidelines with COVID-19. We will continue to work on this as things change on a day to day basis.

Hornby Recreation is optimistic that we will get through this pandemic and our Community's health and well being is the most important thing to us.

Stay healthy, stay active and stay Safe,

By Jade Wilson, Recreation Coordinator

Report from the Hall Committee to HIRRA AGM 10th June 2020

The Community Hall was booked for 274 events during 2019. The school used the Hall for their gym exercise, twice a week, from April through to March of this year.

The P/A system was completed early in the year. There have been some interesting glitches as the system is used more and more. The improved lighting project for the main hall is complete. The Committee has decided to leave the gallery steps lights for now. The fans attached to the back of the stage lights continue to be too loud. Ian Emberton is working on a solution.

This time last year the bollards and rope went up outside the Festival Office in order to make parking large trucks and cars on the road allowance impossible. This was done to keep the people walking to and from the market safe. The Hall Committee has to find 48 more parking spaces in collaboration with HIAC and the Central Planning group.

The Hall Committee has spent time looking at the layout of the building to assess how and where there is space to magically create an accessible washroom. The next step is to bring in the architects and find out exactly what needs to happen.

Last summer the Hornby Island Theatre Society turned the storage building into a Black Box Theatre and produced two great plays.

Time has been spent on clearing up the out buildings, cutting down dead trees from the parking lot and research into if there were cost effective folding chairs to replace the plastic ones.

General maintenance of this precious building continues. Glenn Ford has rebuilt the side entrance steps and he is repairing all the leather chairs. This includes sanding and verethaning the arms, re-felting the feet and securing the grommets in the leather. Both these jobs are due to the Covid-19 shut down.

The next question, in this era of Covid-19, is how to begin to work out what is the safest way to think about opening the Hall. The CVRD meeting held yesterday afternoon advised caution and to take any steps towards any planned opening really slowly.

The Hall Committee thanks Lynn Nunley for her work as booking agent and manager of the Hall. Colleen Work for her dedication to keeping the building clean at all times. Glenn Ford for handling all the maintenance required to keep this aging building functioning. Reina LeBaron for taking the minutes at our meetings.

I would also like to thank Judith Lawrence, Gabriel Jeroschewitz, Cathy Bonner and most recently Hilary Wood-McDonnell for meeting once a month during the past year.

By Vicki Bale, Committee Chair

HIRRA Privy Council (Comfort Stations Committee) Report for HIRRA AGM June 2020

2019 was a pretty good year for Hornby outhouses. There were several major accomplishments:

1. Thanks to the efforts of Reina LeBaron, HIRRA Administrator and Doug DeMarzo from CVRD, we were able to establish a Future Expenditures Fund and begin stashing away money for future outhouse construction and /or replacement.
2. Thanks to HIRRA Parks and Trails Committee in partnership with CVRD Parks, a permanent concrete vault outhouse was planned for Sandpiper Park, with a goal of construction completed by summer 2020.
3. Our extremely artistic and (we think) amusing anti-garbage in the outhouses campaign seems to have worked. Our thanks to Hornby artist Persimmon Blackbridge, poet Tony Law and laminator Don Nixon. The outhouses had the lowest amount of extraneous garbage ever! Pump-outs were not impeded by beer cans, etc. nor did our always-intrepid cleaner, Colleen Work, have to remove garbage by hand.

2019 was a difficult year for me personally and I needed to be off-Island for much of it. I am profoundly grateful to Committee Members Chris Aikman and Tony Law for taking over all my Committee responsibilities, and to Colleen Work for her exemplary cleaning practices. To our sorrow, Chris Aikman has resigned his Committee position and we all thank him very sincerely for his years of administrative service – and his fabulous repair and construction skills.

By Nym Hughes, Committee Chair

Invasive weed report for HIRRA AGM June 2020

Daphne was removed from the Ford Cove area. 77 hours were spent removing 10000 or more Daphne plants

We will be focus next on the Shingle Spot area but funds a very low.

Although not part of the HIRRA WEED budget, The members of the weed control committee did 45 hours of

volunteer work removing Daphne from the Ford Cove Area and Whaling Station Bay.

Weed control committee: Eva Wetzel, Ilze Raudzins, Liz Earle and Anna Zielinski

Presented by Anna Zielinski

Broom Removal Update April 2019-2020

Broom eradication is predictable in that it does not end. Some areas like the gravel pits, Lea Smith Road, Joe King Park, Downes Point, Four Corners, Walton Place and Roburn Road continue to need hours of work each. There will be a significant workload in controlling the broom in the years to come. However, there is significant improvement. Broom eradication is by volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who has helped, and continues to help, with the broom busting. We hope to focus on education on all the invasives in the upcoming year.

Submitted by Eva Wetzel, Invasive Plant Committee, HIRRA