



**Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association  
(HIRRA)**

4305 Central Road, Hornby Island, BC, V0R 1Z0  
Ph: (250) 335-1842 E-mail: office@hirra.ca

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**Committee Reports Compilation for HIRRA AGM 2021**

**Comfort Stations Annual Report for HIRRA AGM 2021**

2020 was a hard year for the Comfort Stations Committee, as it was a hard year for everyone. Outhouses were designated essential services so we needed to keep them available, and remembering back to a year ago, no one knew for sure how to keep ourselves, our employees, our neighbours and our visitors safe from COVID. It was challenging and scary.

And it was ultimately successful. No one, as far as we know, contracted COVID from a HIRRA outhouse. We all managed to get through the summer and the rest of the year too. That is our biggest accomplishment from 2020!

We also welcomed, with much appreciation to HIRRA Regional Parks and Trails Committee and CVRD, a new permanent outhouse at Sandpiper Park at the end of July. We kept our outhouses not only open, but very clean and well-sanitized thanks completely to our employee, Colleen Work, back-up contractor Michael Hornsby, and our septic pumping hero, Larry from Valley Septic. There was very high outhouse usage, not only in July and August, but in April, May, June, September and October as well.

While we went 536% over our supplies budget because of PPE, hand sanitizer and anti-virus cleanser, we spent nothing on anything else (other than wages) so ended up only 2% over our expenses budget in total. Which was a major accomplishment!

For the second summer in a row, we had no pump-hose clogging garbage in any of the outhouses, which was excellent, although we did experience some vandalism at Shields Road – our hand sanitizer dispenser was ripped down. Twice.

And all 3 of our Committee members agreed to stay on and Colleen was willing to keep working for us.

For 2021, while we are expecting a second COVID summer, we are somewhat better informed so somewhat less anxious. An Environmental Health Officer from Island Health assured us that outhouses were considered a low transmission risk because touch transmission is no longer seen as a major transmission route, outhouses are both outdoors and serve only one person at a time, and are well-ventilated. We are required to provide hand sanitizer, use an anti-viral cleanser and have COVID Safety signage.

We will operate six summer outhouses – 4 permanents and 2 porta-potties. We have not budgeted for any repairs or improvements or replacements, so fingers crossed that all the doors stay on their hinges.

Our future projects include a new collaboration with 2 other HIRRA Committees, Parks and Trails and Depot, to plan for solutions to the increasing dog poop bag problem. Small Island, many dogs.

We will also revisit our plan to ask for funds to build a new permanent outhouse in the Central Use Area. More on that project at Fall budget time.



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The Committee wants to thank the HIRRA Executive, particularly President Lynn Nunley, and HIRRA employees Reina LeBaron and Joanne Ovitsland for their consistent support through a difficult time.

Submitted on behalf of the Comfort Stations Committee by Nym Hughes, Committee Chair

**Hornby Island Recycling Depot Annual Report for HIRRA AGM 2021**

**2020 1st Quarter**

CUPE Contract signed February 26 2021  
COVID -19 hit in March  
Reduction of services and the Free Store closure

**2020 2nd Quarter**

Developing safety protocols with assistance from the CVRD included new safety regulations for everyone to follow  
Incredible participation and co-operation from the public  
Site clean up moving 118 tons of debris buried outside the capped landfill  
Annie Nagle retired after over two decades of service to the island

**2020 3rd Quarter**

Summer volumes were larger than one would expect during a pandemic  
One of the biggest revenue years in the Depot history  
Long wait times due to covid protocol  
Introduction of Waste Tickets to assist in the payment procedure  
Work on Free Store re-opening and safety protocol development

**2020 4th Quarter**

Propane Cage, build on pre-existing concrete pad  
Recycling building outfitted with plexi-glass  
Free Store Covid plan by Jan Kennedy was approved by CVRD  
Free Store re-opened on November 19 2020 one day per week  
CVRD build a Cashier Kiosk to protect staff and equipment

Submitted by the Depot Manager

**Regional Parks and Trails (P&T) Committee Annual Report for HIRRA AGM 2021**

It's been a busy year for the P&T Committee and the Parks contractor Yana Pethick. Two of our long-standing committee members retired in the past 6 months. Sasha LeBaron was acknowledged in the Fall Committee report and I'll take this opportunity to thank Brian Kittleson for his years of service. Brian always contributed to our committee



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in a very informed and experienced way. Meanwhile, those vacancies have been filled by the appointment of Amanda Zielinski and Leslee Richards, both of whom have a deep understanding of our trail system. Thank you, Amanda and Leslee, for stepping up. It's not insignificant to recognize that a chronically gender imbalanced committee has swung the other direction.

The Gull Road Greenway has been completed, linking Fowler Rd. beach access to St. Johns Point Rd. Thanks to Daniel May from the CVRD for securing the majority of funding for that project through the Provincial Active Transportation grant.

Sandpiper Park saw a major upgrade with the installation of a permanent outhouse. Shout out to the stalwarts of the Privy Council. The beach access has been modified to make it a more permanent trail. Also, the chronic water pooling problems in the parking area have been addressed. There will be a memorial bench placed in the park in recognition of the late Carol Quinn's lifetime of contribution to Hornby Island.

There is now a new trail from Central Rd to the Recycling Depot, located between SPARK and the Depot Rd, with plans to continue from the Depot with a single-track trail to French Connection. High quality aluminum mesh has now been installed on all wooden bridges and trail features on Mt. Geoffrey, replacing the original steel mesh which proved not to be very durable. CVRD were to conduct a "sensitive ecosystem" study and map in Park and Crown Lands, in the past year. We are told that it will happen this year.

The Committee issued a letter of support to Chris Winter's Big Mountain Adventure's mountain bike camp proposal. The Committee granted Yana Pethick a three-year term as Parks Contractor. The Committee would like to acknowledge and thank HIMBA for their ongoing and extensive volunteer efforts towards trail repair and renovation. And finally, the year ended with a budget surplus.

Submitted by Tom Rutherford on behalf of the Committee

### **Hornby Recreation Annual Report for HIRRA AGM 2021**

Hornby Recreation's main objective throughout this last year with COVID19 and the experience of being in a pandemic has been to keep our community safe. Hornby Recreation has been able to offer an array of programming primarily for youth due to current Recreation/Sport regulations. We are only offering programming outside and have a strict COVID19 safety plan set in place for all programs. All our program instructors are provided with hand sanitizer and PPE and program participants are responsible to provide their own snacks and water. All program participants are asked to continuously do a health check at home and are unable to attend the program if they are showing signs/symptoms of COVID19 and if someone in their household is positive with COVID19. Throughout this last year we have had no one contract or exposed anyone in our programming to COVID19.

We shut down all programming in March of 2020 with regulations put in place due to COVID19. Summer 2020 we ran on only a few small soccer skill sessions and a small



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nature camp program. In the fall we could operate on a bigger scale due to regulations relaxing and offered two separate age groups of soccer, as well as fall Tennis. As of December 2020, the restrictions put in place for COVID19 became tight again and we only offered some small programs with low attendance. We were able to successfully offer two ski days for our community but all other programming as been for youth only. Anyone under the age of 21 due to the operating restrictions with the pandemic.

The New Year had arrived, it is now 2021! Late fall/early spring we ran four sessions of "intro to Disc Golf" for ages Grade 3-7. This program was a great way to share with the children how to play the game and they can now be outside with their friends and family safely playing throughout the year utilizing our Disc Golf Course at Joe King Park. During Spring Break (March 2021) we partnered with Hornby Island Educational Society and shared a program calendar for all school age kids grades 5-7. It was a full two weeks of fun programming and we offered a Nature Camp for ages 5-7 and Forest Fridays for ages 8-12.

April 2021 is Spring Tennis time! The tennis turn out is great this year with four groups playing twice a week for four weeks. We have continued with our Forest Friday's nature program offering it as a miniseries (three Fridays in a row). Offering these programs as miniseries allows participants to commit more easily as we know how the spring is so busy here on Hornby Island.

Coming up we have a Nature Camp for ages 5-7, More Forest Fridays miniseries and Baseball lessons for ages 6-12.

Summer 2021 is still in the planning stages but at this point with current restrictions and the safety of our Community in mind we will not be having any off-island instructors and we will only be offering programming to on island residents. We will have ongoing Nature Camps and forest programs all summer long as well as tennis camps, water sports, soccer lessons and more.

Hornby Recreation will continue to abide but all government restrictions and regulations during this pandemic and will always keep the safety of our community a number one priority. We are continuously so grateful for the support and patience our Community has during this challenging time and are looking forward to when we can open and offer full Community programs and events for all ages, adults, and seniors here on Hornby Island. Hornby Recreation would like to send out thank yous to Eben Walmsley a long-standing committee member and Cindy Ackland for there time, efforts, and contributions with the Recreation Committee. We wish them well on there next endeavours.

Take care and stay safe, Jade Wilson, Recreation Coordinator.

**Invasive Weed Control Committee Annual Report for HIRRA AGM 2021**

We would like to welcome Rachel Platt to our committee. Eva Wetzel is stepping down so huge thanks go to her for the many years and many hours spent bashing Broom all over the island. Good news. She plans to continuing doing this.



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The \$2,500 received from HIRRA was used to hire a local person for 115 hours which was used for Daphne removal.

70% of the invasive plant removal was done by volunteers. So hugs go out to them for without this help not much would have been accomplished.

Broom: 45 hours

Daphne: 215 hours which equates to 35,000 plants removed

Total volunteer hours: 260

Please note that with HIRRA money and volunteer help 50,000 Daphne are gone.

There has also been an encouraging up-tick on the number of homeowners who are dealing with the Daphne and other invasives on their properties. This is music to our ears.

Anna Zielinski for the Invasive Plant Control Committee

**Community Hall Committee Annual Report for HIRRA AGM 2021**

The Community Hall has been open for committee meetings, Herring Fest Art Show and music recordings. The Hall has been open and closed on and off throughout the last year according to the Public Health Office orders. The CVRD has held monthly meetings with the local Community Halls to help us all decipher the weekly orders and to encourage us all to re think our capital costs for the coming year.

Lynn Nunley as manager and booking agent has been kept busy with when is the building open or closed and with many questions about whether she can take bookings. Colleen Work continues to keep the Hall spotlessly clean. Kevin Peacock has efficiently mended the two broken windows and Ian Emberton has installed new silent lights for the stage as well as replaced some outside lights with more efficient bulbs. Hayley Hall continues to make the garden beautiful. Bikram Gill is cutting the grass. The Hall Committee extends their grateful thanks for all the hard work these people have done and continue to do in order to keep this precious building in great shape.

All the buildings have been inspected and I am plowing through the 157 pages of the Hall report. So far, the flat roof over the washrooms needs replacing and there is some ant damage.

The Hall Committee has certainly been challenged with organizing meetings. Some members cannot connect to Zoom and others are not happy about meeting in person. We are looking forward to meeting outside once again.

Submitted by Vicki Bale, Committee Chair

**Cemetery Committee Annual Report for HIRRA AGM 2021**

**Stats:**

In the past year from Jan.1 to Dec. 31 of 2020, the cemetery had no full body burials and 8 cremation interments.



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We would like to honour Margaret Pethick who was the secretary of the Cemetery Committee for 10 years and gave exemplary service to our community. She helped many people dealing with the burial of a loved one. Her down to earth and compassionate nature made her beloved by those who knew her. She is sadly missed. Fortunately, she had trained Gloria Herbert who has taken over secretarial duties.

**Projects completed:**

- Larry Smith and Gordie Bateman surveyed and flagged the existing boundaries of the cemetery.
- There are three rows of cremation plots allocated in the cemetery. We have begun developing the back row C by clearing salal. Two cremation plots are now occupied in that row. The second row B is almost completely full. The front row A has been prepared with new location markers placed in the ground. It has 2 plots allocated and 2 occupied now.
- As to future expansion, we can see that there is space available for cremated remains inside the boundaries of the cemetery as well as using full body burial spaces. The search for more land for full body burials will continue in the new year.
- Because of the Covid 19 pandemic no large community work parties were held.
- Regular maintenance including tree pruning and mowing was done.
- Thank you to those families who have placed headstones on grave sites this year. It is essential that all graves are identified with the person's name and dates of birth and death. We will be contacting people who have not yet placed permanent markers or headstones on graves.
- The wall inside the portal is a wonderful place to put up small plaques memorializing community members not buried in the cemetery. If you wish to honour loved ones in that way, more information is available in the cemetery brochure available on the HIRRA website. Hard copies are available at the clinic or Home Support office.

**New Projects:**

- Last year we said that adjacent crown land to the north and west would be explored and marked to see if it could be used for future expansion of the cemetery. We will pursue this again in the coming year. A time will come when the cemetery may only be able to accommodate cremation plots or new advances in technology may provide better ways of dealing with burials.
- The numbers painted on the concrete full body grave markers set in the ground have faded and are no longer visible. We put in new stainless steel posts to indicate the rows of full body burial sites in order to facilitate locating grave sites. We also marked the new row of cremations plots using aluminum and vinyl numbers. Thanks go to Larry Smith for his ingenuity in undertaking these jobs. We need to redo the numbers for all full body plots.

Submitted by Tina Wai on behalf of the Cemetery Committee

**Emergency Preparedness Committee Annual Report for HIRRA AGM 2021**

Our committee meets monthly our more often. We have not been able to do the training sessions we had hoped for but will resume when possible. We have continued mapping neighbourhoods and zones for teams and communication network as well as evacuation



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plans. We participate in CAST, Hornby Health Network and Covid Response group meetings.

One of our main efforts has been to research funding options and have created budgets for short term needs and annual budgets for five years. Patrick Healy has joined our committee bringing a lot of experience and ideas from the Mid-Vancouver Island EP group. Reina and Joanne have been very helpful in the budget planning and the HIRRA executive has been very positive in supporting our submissions to the CVRD EP organization. Thanks.

Our current committee is David Wiseman, Gary Burtinsky, Amy LeBaron, Albini Lapierre and Patrick Healy

Submitted by David Wiseman, Committee Chair

**Boat Ramp Committee Annual Report for HIRRA AGM 2021**

This year, the Committee decided to reduce from seven to five members (still one vacancy). The Committee mainly operates as an advisory group to the CVRD who are in charge of the Boat Ramp. The CVRD has applied for grants to replace the Boat Ramp. They did some urgently needed repairs to the surface a couple of years ago.

Submitted by John Struthers, Committee Chair