

HIRRA April 10, 2024 AGM reports (for the 2023 year)

Executive Report

2023 was an interesting year. This AGM will be my last meeting as Chair and as part of the HIRRA Executive. The rising interest rates and cost of living have put huge pressure on our family, like so many families in BC that have a mortgage. In addition, the time commitments required to start a small business and parent my kids need to take priority and any remaining volunteer time that I have will continue to be allocated to the fire department.

Allie Quelch will be not seeking another term, in the role of Secretary. I would like to thank her for her commitment to attending the Executive meetings as well as taking on different responsibilities within HIRRA in the last 2 years and fitting it in to her busy schedule. Time seems to be the largest factor with people's ability to be a volunteer, and it is resulting in vacancies on a lot of the committees.

On a positive note: Jeff will be standing for the position of President for the remaining year of the term. Patrick has offered to stand for the Treasurer role that was vacated by Angeleah Hoepfner's move to Assistant Financial Admin. There are at least 2 people that have agreed to stand for the Executive. It would be great if there was 3rd from the group of you all this evening that would like to stand as well.

We are larger by one committee this year over last year as there has been the incorporation of the Water Stewardship into HIRRA this year. Other highlights: Using Room to Grow technology to offer regular hybrid HIRRA meetings. Trail accident claim resolved out of court. We had the 50th anniversary event (though it was technically in the 2024 year). There was a new gate installed at the Savoie Centre garden and it looks great.

This little island is not immune to the changes that are happening everywhere and trying to be fiscally responsible as an organization has been a big priority for the Executive. The Executive collaborated with HICEEC to review and renew the Community Vision with feedback from interested islanders. It has also been a learning experience for myself as to what the HIRRA membership wants. The Executive had hoped to have a Strategic Planning Session in January, but for various reasons it had to be postponed and now may be happening this coming fall or winter. As HIRRA has evolved into a more and more complex organization over the last 70 years, it is clear the Executive needs to take some time to optimize the organization and set us up for success in the next decade or more.

As always please reach out to us at office@hirra.ca if you have feedback for the hard-working folks within this organization.

By Ashley Stotts

Tax funded Committee Reports:

Comfort Stations Committee Report

We continue to operate four permanent outhouses year-round plus three rented ones over the summer, one of which is on behalf of the Farmers' Market.

We are very fortunate to have an excellent new employee in Sanae Work to replace the decades-long service of Colleen Work, who is still available as back-up, keeping her experience and expertise still available.

Utilization of the outhouses continues to increase, including in the fall, winter, and spring. Costs are also increasing, especially for the rented outhouses.

The old - and well-used - Little Tribune Bay outhouse is due to be replaced by CVRD this year. The other old outhouses at Whaling Station Bay and Shields Road continue to be monitored. The Shields Road one might not be replaced when it reaches the end of its life because BC Parks provides four outhouses a short distance away.

It would be ideal to replace the two summer rented outhouses on HIRRA property which serve the Farmers' Market and other activities in the area with a permanent double-seater. This would reduce operating costs. But capital funding is not readily accessible.

Following public requests, the possibility of siting a public outhouse at Ford Cove was investigated. No feasible way to do this was found at present. BC Parks is expected to site an outhouse on its property near Ford Cove.

As last year, increasing use and increasing costs will likely push our budget to its limits.

This Committee is supposed to have three members. For the past year it has only had one. New members will be welcomed!

Submitted by Tony Law

Community Hall Committee *Separate PDF*

Fire Protection: Hornby Island Fire Rescue *Separate PDF*

Hornby Island Emergency Preparedness Committee 2023 Annual Report

Mission statement: *To collaborate with other organizations in providing ongoing education and support for Hornby residents to become more prepared for a range of potential emergencies.*

The HIEPC had an active year in 2023, discovering and defining the exact nature of the work to be done and confirming an ongoing presence in the Hornby community.

Early in 2023 two key members of the Committee stepped down: thanks for the work, Margaret Birch and Robert Evans!

Priorities for HIEPC are to support and encourage emergency preparedness for individuals, households/families, neighbourhoods and our extended community. This includes working with permanent residents, part time residents and informing/educating visitors who also arrive and stay on our Island.

Determining that our work is to support Emergency PREPAREDNESS and not spearhead emergency response has been a useful insight, as we determine the best use of our time and resources.

Our ongoing efforts were in support of

1. Projects
2. NEPP volunteer recruitment and support of current volunteers,
3. Liaisons with other organizations and agencies on Hornby and in the Comox Valley.

Projects

We spent time determining the best use of the generators and a generator switch we were given in 2022; to that end we determined the utility of one generator for the Community Hall and worked to establish that it was in working order, and could meet some of the needs of the Hall in the circumstance of a power outage. We also found a home for the switch and were successful in allocating that resource to Hornby Denman Health along with funds to complete the necessary electrical work to install the switch.

We received a grant from the Hornby Community Fund in 2022 (administered by the Comox Valley Community Foundation) for a trailer that could be used in emergency circumstances and when the HIEPC is required to transport materials/resources to public events. We are grateful to the HIFR for providing a location to store the trailer that is secure and easy to access.

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) organizing

The key resource for our NEPP organizing is the Neighbourhood Map that establishes well-defined and specific areas. We endeavour to find a volunteer for each of these neighbourhoods to support themselves in coming together and planning/preparing for emergencies. During 2023 we established volunteers in approximately half of these areas. Thanks to the CVRD for printing our revised map, and to Duncan MacCaskill for creating and updating this graphic.

In support of our NEPP volunteers we hosted a workshop in late November with a First Aid presentation (thank you John Heinegg and HIFR!) and to provide an opportunity for people to meet and discuss the process and approaches they are using in organizing their neighbourhoods.

We continue to invite people to consider volunteering in their neighbourhood. We also encourage those people who do have representative volunteers to work with them to support the grassroots knowledge and awareness of their own area in order to be informed and prepared should an emergency occur.

Liaisons

We worked to extend our key messages through HISTRA, providing a template for a letter for distribution to their membership in order to provide emergency preparation key messages to the visitors they host.

We submit articles in each First Edition (thanks to those who make this monthly publication possible!) to educate about Emergency Preparation as well as to highlight activities and plans that we have for involving the Hornby community.

We hosted a booth at the Fall Fair in order to profile our Neighbourhood Map and our work, and to continue to inform and invite participation and involvement in Emergency Preparedness. Thanks to the CVRD Emergency Management and to BC Hydro for joining us and collaborating in providing insight into how their agencies and organizations support our emergency planning and response.

Plans for the future

Our Budget preparation in the fall 2023 allowed us time to consider an ongoing approach for Emergency Preparedness activities/projects. As a result, we established an annual plan for our committee. In addition to our presence at the Fall Fair, we intend to host two community-wide events: a spring event, inviting all island participation and involvement in emergency preparation resources and skills: Grab and Go Bags/three day emergency supplies for self sufficiency/first aid training, etc. In the fall we intend to organize a mutual support event for the Neighbourhood Volunteers as the NEPP emphasis in our community is core work for our committee.

Acknowledgement of support for our work

We wish to extend thanks to HIFR for their unending support, specifically their extension of space and resources for our efforts.

We also wish to extend our appreciation to Comox Valley Emergency Management, especially Cari McIntyre, their Emergency Planning Coordinator.

We also want to recognize and appreciate the work of HIRRA, especially Reina and Joanne, who provide information, education and insight into how best to do the things we wish to do; their wisdom and experience lends significant value to our committee work.

respectfully submitted:

bernie kowey, Amy LeBaron, Tom Ruth, Henry Touwslager, Albini LaPierre

Invasive Plant Control Committee Report

With the help of not-quite retired invasive champions, Eva and Anna, this committee continues to clear invasive Broom and Daphne from Hornby, keeping our naturally beautiful island as beautiful as possible. Former hot spots for Broom are checked annually and we are still working on clearing Daphne from the lots that are heavily infested, as well as the neighbouring properties. Most of this work is done by volunteers, who each spend dozens of hours every year.

Last autumn, we began tackling Holly, beginning in Mount Geoffrey Park, along Rainforest trail, which has a lot. With seven work parties and the help of our wonderful paid staff, we removed over 3,000 Holly plants in that region alone, with much more to do. Haydn Thomas, our part-time, year-round contractor continues to target large Holly plants as well as Broom and Daphne.

A big thank you to property owners who have gotten in touch about Holly on their properties. Our CVRD budget only allows us about 60 hours of work on private properties, with the remainder earmarked for park land, but we are keeping a list and hope to get around to everyone who reached out. Please spread the word to those who seem resistant to removing their invasive plants. Hornby won't be "clear" of invasives until property owners clean up their land.

We will be spending a few years on Holly at the rate we are going, but we are optimistic we can get on top of this issue with the help of our Hornby neighbours. Ivy is next up in our sights.

Please come say hello on Earth Day, April 20, on the Co-op porch from 11-1 and consider a donation to the HIRRA Invasive Plant Committee to keep our crew working longer this year.

Hornby Recreation Committee Annual Report

Written by Jade Wilson, Recreation Coordinator

Since our last HIRRA AGM we welcomed Donna Tuele and Bonita Wexler to join Alexandra Lamont, Christina Lenic and Jonattan Escobar Mendoza on the Recreation Committee. We were all feeling excited and got right to planning our summer schedule and our annual community baseball. Our baseball game traditionally happens the Saturday of May long weekend, but last spring the baseball field was re-seeded so we delayed the event until June. We ended up with a great turnout and are looking forward to this year's.

Our summer schedule for July and August 2023 had our best enrollment yet coming out of the pandemic and we had some of our longest standing instructors return. Frank Doss returned to offer a Ninja camp and a Nature Camp; 7 Story Circus returned with a great circus program.

Lifeguard Outreach Society returned for their 5th summer in a row and hosted ocean swim lessons/survival skills and a bronze star program. We are their longest standing community that they return to year after year which feels so good to support and collaborate with such an important non-profit.

We also tapped into our local talent and owe them all a huge thank you for taking the time to share their skills, passion, and knowledge to instruct a program. Andrea Kaback ran a great theatre program; Tyler Manson offered a super fun cartooning program and Faroe De Roches shared her incredible kayaking knowledge with a weeklong kayak camp. Tyler Manson and Amanda Wilkinson hosted a great golf clinic and Christy Kooman came back for a fun week of dance camps for all different ages and all different styles of dance. Not only did we tap into our local talent for instructors but were also able to hire a local youth as our Summer Program Assistant for 2023 thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs grant. Kaedan Armstrong exceeded expectations within this position and truly made the summer programs run smoothly while supporting all our instructors.

Fall 2023, school was back in session and we ran a series of soccer sessions for youths' grades 3-7. This fall soccer proved difficult with the weather and really showed us we need a hired instructor or someone very passionate about the game to fully take on this role. We are now looking for a soccer instructor, so if that is you, please get in contact with me.

Now that school was back in session, we had access to the school gymnasium and are still currently running a lot of adult user group activities during the week. These indoor gym activities are available for anyone to drop in and all you need is clean indoor shoes.

Mondays is soccer from 6-8pm, Tuesdays is pickleball from 5-8pm, Wednesdays is an indoor walking group from 5-6pm and pickleball from 6-8pm and Thursdays is badminton from 5-8pm. As you can see pickleball is really taking off as a very popular sport and we hope to have more turn out this spring, some come on out and play pickleball.

Throughout the winter the weather was too wet and rainy to book ski days at Mt. Washington, but we did successfully run two swim and skate sessions in town with multiple families attending.

We have also had an incredibly opportunity, thanks to Tim English, to collaborate with a new not for profit organization called Vancouver Island Eco Learn, an ecological education research and adventure association. This group is committed to unveiling and highlighting the profound value of Vancouver Island's hidden ecosystems and they believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to learn within them. Tim reached out and we have successfully run our first small caving exploration at Horne Lake Caves back in February. It was a blast, and everyone learnt so much. This was such a great experience we are fortunate enough to run more caving adventures and have two more groups going in May.

For this spring we were able to offer a series of off-island swimming lessons for ages 3-5 and 6-10. In the past we would offer a fall and spring series of off-island swimming lessons and haven't been able to do so since the pandemic, so we are exciting about these lessons starting April 12th.

We are now approaching summer not far ahead and are busy planning the summer 2024 programming. Here are a few save the dates for upcoming events:

- We are hoping to host a Family Dance at the end of April (date to be announced).
- May 1 we will be sending out an electronic survey to hear from you! We want to know what the community is looking for in way of recreational activities, on and off island and see how we can best support our community.

- May 18 is our Annual Community Baseball game at Joe King. Everyone is welcome. There is a “youth/family game” and then an “everyone game” so no need to have experience, just enjoyment for playing the game, or want to try it out!
- May 22 is our tentative date to release the 2024 Summer Brochure. This brochure goes out electronically and will be accessible through our website and we will post links on social media and through email.

Hornby Island Recycling and Waste Management Highlights of 2023

In the beginning of 2023, we hired Jerry Dean Bodie, as the new Beach Access Recycling and Waste pickup contractor.

We started to bale paper and cardboard streams together, as well as most packaging containers. This resulted in reducing the need for shipping recycling off the island by 50%.

In January of 2023 RecycleBC added “single use” and “packaging like” products to their collection. These newly added items fitted perfectly into our existing streams and are for items such as straws, Tupperware, as well as plastic hangers, plastic dishes, and utensils.

The CVRD constructed a breezeway over the Free Store and the library/office. This allows for more Free Store storage for large and bulky items.

This year’s t-shirt was designed by Stevi Kittleson, and they are still available in four colours for \$25 each.

A new cash register Point of Sale system was purchased and implemented in September. Operation is very intuitive, and staff have embraced this new technology. We are now able to retrieve more accurate data reports to chart our waste streams more accurately. It will also minimise the operators’ data entry errors and correct said errors.

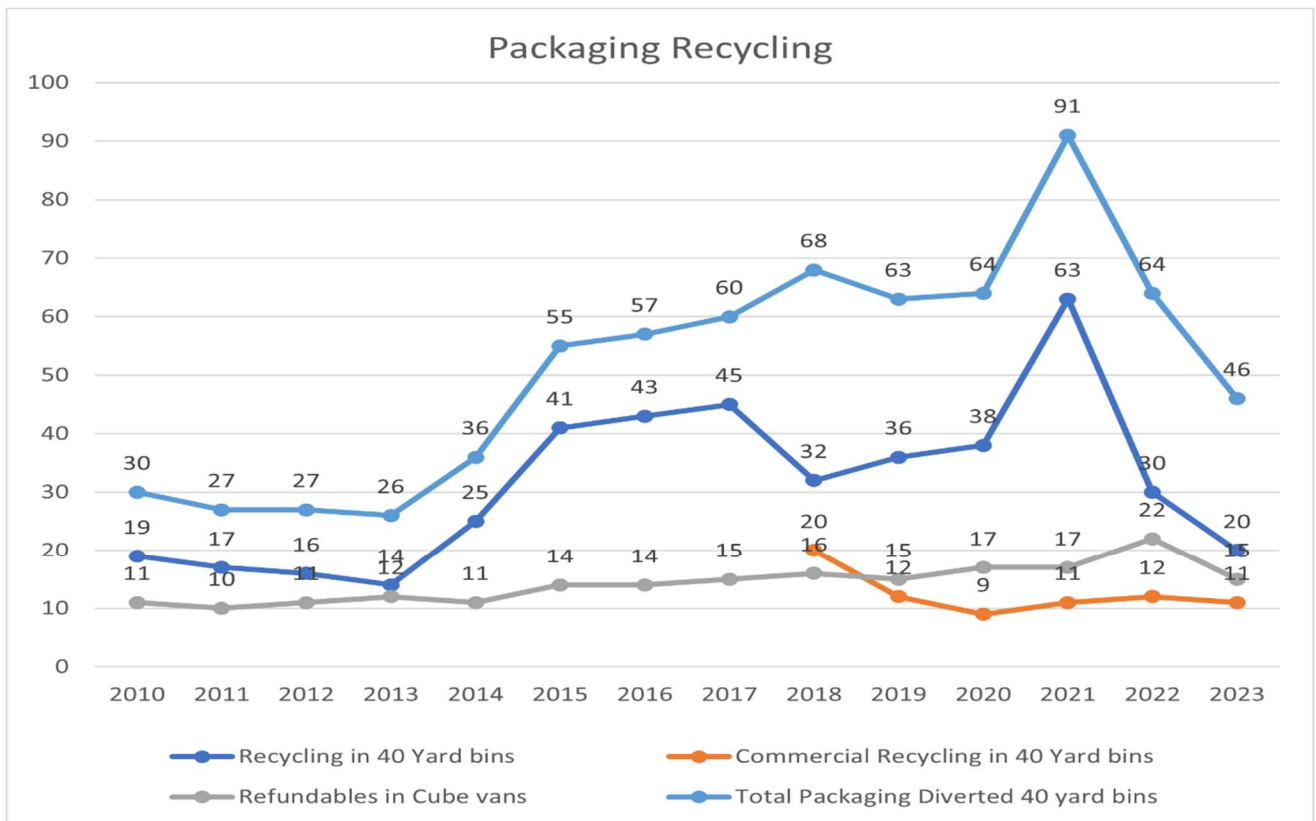
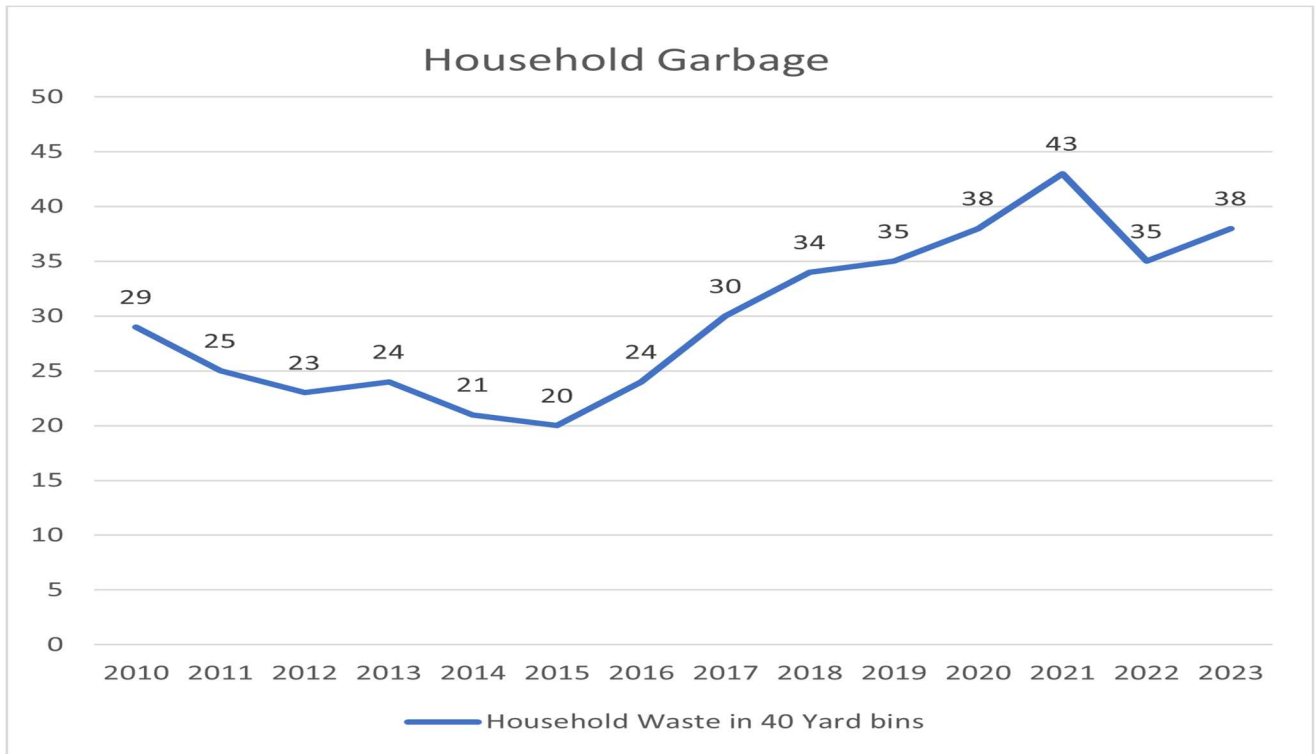
The provincial government has announced that in 2024 amendments to the environmental legislation will incorporate “Moderate Risk Materials.” With the amendments, the legislation hopes to make a stewardship program responsible for the recycling of small containers carrying fuel (e.g. 1lb propane tanks). As well, more stringent collection protocols and accountability around e-waste, which now is the fastest growing waste stream in Canada, will need to be followed. The CVRD has started the construction of the recycling building extension to store and protect the e-waste produced on Hornby Island.

In November we found a recycler for used cooking oil. West Coast Reduction Ltd., a recycler in Nanaimo, is now removing used cooking oil from Hornby. Used cooking oil and grease can be brought to the Product Care Building on Fridays from 9am until 1pm only.

Scott Hardy has cleared and landscaped the old glass pile area, roughly 40’ x 40’, in preparation to be used as the We-Store construction materials repurposing yard. The CVRD is in favour and has “verbally” committed to spend a maximum \$5,000 on additional materials required to complete the required fencing in 2024. The CVRD financial support will only apply to materials, and they stressed that they do not want to cover labour.

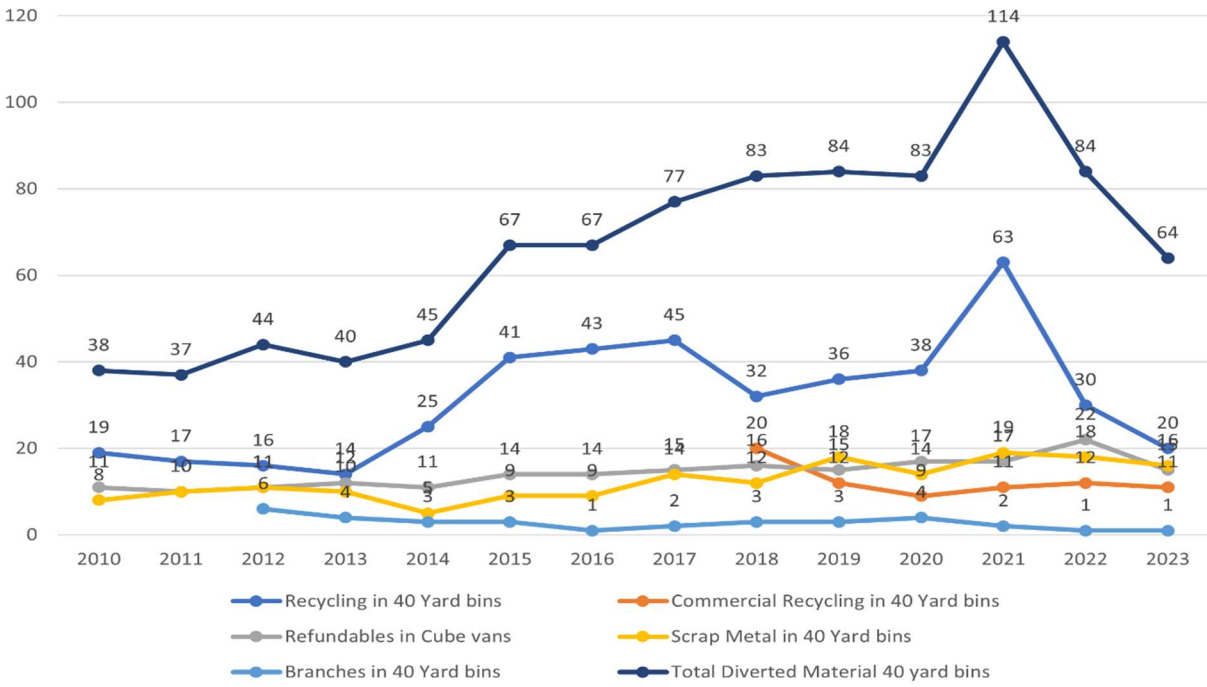
We started to collect cigarette butts last summer and the first 10kg of cigarette butts have been collected, packaged, and shipped to the recycler.

Graphs for 2023

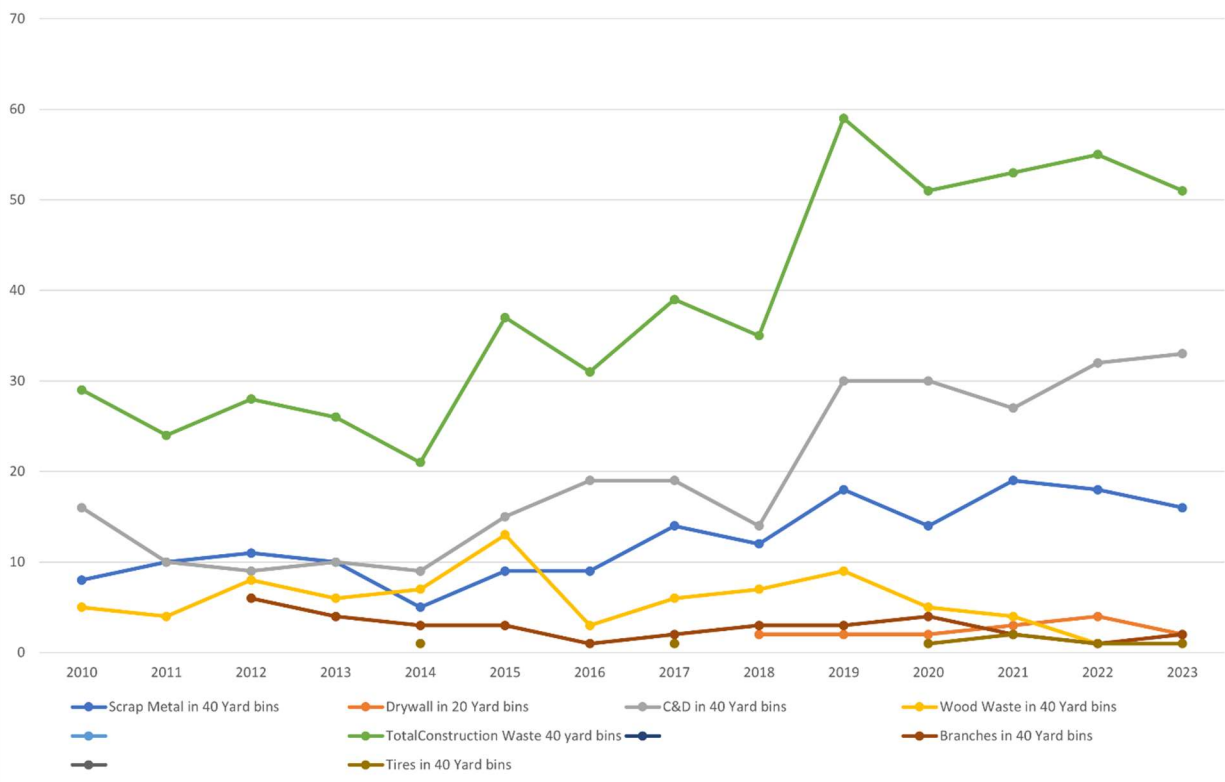


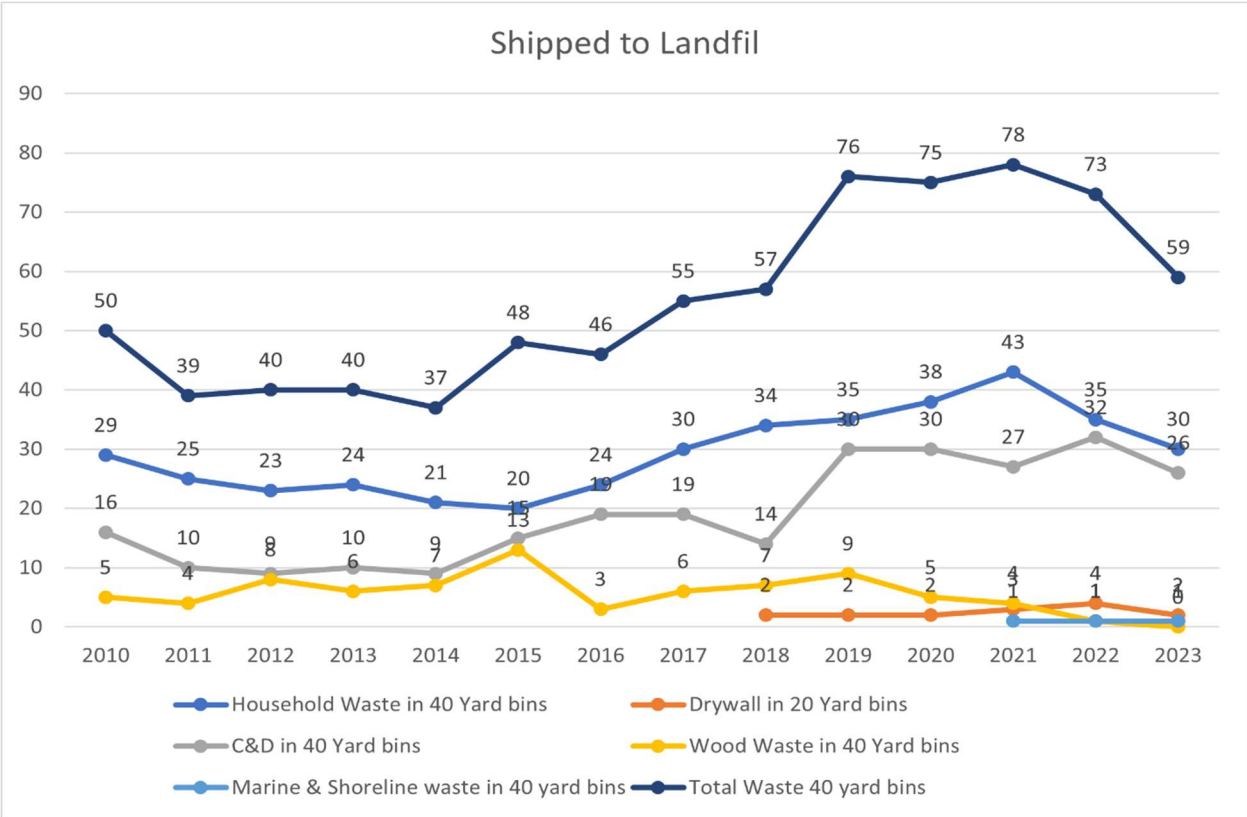
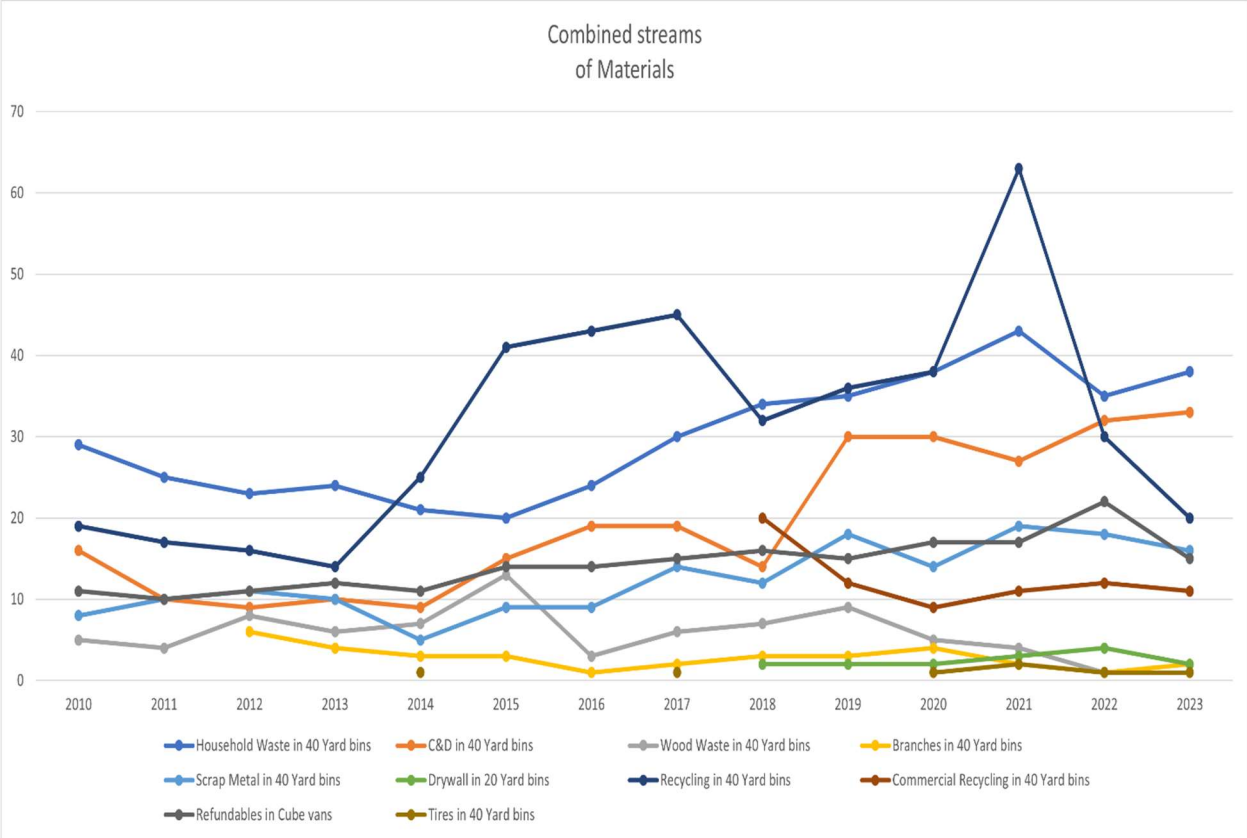
Material Diverted from Landfill

Recycling bin count for 2021 higher due to covid requirements not to bale materials



Construction Waste





Non-tax funded Committee Reports:

Boat Ramp Advisory Committee Report

I am pleased to report that after many years of trying to initiate work on replacing the old boat ramp adjacent to the ferry terminal, significant progress is being made. With the backing and support of Director Daniel Arbour, funding has been secured which is allowing the project to proceed. Daniel May of the Comox Valley Regional District has been tasked with getting the project underway. Recently an onsite meeting was held at the boat ramp with Engineers, Daniel May and local representatives to discuss the reconstruction of the ramp. A revised Concept Plan is now being prepared based on these discussions. It is expected that the revised plan will be available sometime in April for presentation and discussion with Hornby residents.

It should be mentioned that the access to funding has also peaked the interest in the project with a number of new and former Hornby folks participating in an advisory capacity. In addition to myself and Larry Wasserman, the following folks have become a welcome addition to the review committee. John Ross, Rachel Platt, Peter Walford, Alan Fletcher, and Karen Ross.

The scope of the project has been considered by First Nations representatives and the scope as envisioned to date has been cleared. Additional consideration for environmental issues is still being processed.

So far expected timing is continuing in a positive direction.

The Committee is looking forward to our ongoing involvement in this project to its successful completion. We believe this will result in a very positive outcome for the general Hornby community.

Mike Pedneault, Hornby Boat Ramp Advisory Committee

Cemetery Stewards Annual report

Committee members for 2023:

- Gemma Colin, Iain Palmer, Barb Inglis (re-elected in 2023 for two-year terms).
- Gloria Herbert, Larry Smith, Tina Wai, Kathleen O'Brien, (completing two-year terms as of the 2024 AGM).

Stats:

- In the past year, Jan 1 to Dec 31 2023, the Cemetery had two full body burials and eight cremation interments.
- Once again, we want to acknowledge the diligent work of Mike Works Landscaping. The Committee appreciates how well he maintains the Cemetery year-round. This fall he began to tackle the north side of the Cemetery, removing very old barbed wire from the original fence and cleaning up that area.
- This year also saw repairs to the entrance driveway with the installation of a new culvert parallel to Central Rd. and demarcation of the ditch.
- The Committee updated the information in the online Cemetery brochure and manually altered the remaining paper brochures. New brochures will need to be printed in the coming year.
- The Committee requires permanent headstones or plaques on all graves and encourages families to make sure each grave is identified with the deceased person's name and date of birth and death as soon as possible.

-We also ask that the cemetery be PLASTIC free, in consideration of the natural environment, and the birds and deer that can ingest bits of plastic that have deteriorated. Families are responsible for caring for and tending their plots.

-HIRRA, the Cemetery Committee, and Katherine Ronan are working together on plans to apply for Crown land north of and adjacent to the existing Cemetery to be used in the future as an extension of the Cemetery.

Fall Fair Report for 2023 - with Gratitude for Friends and Allies

First, we offer immense gratitude for the generosity of the Rosemuir Farm owners in sharing the site with the community. There is no more beautiful setting for a harvest celebration, even under cloudy skies.

Thank you to all who came and filled the setting with excitement, sharing and joy – manifesting the importance of Friends and Allies in every aspect of the day. Donations at the gate were \$2,875, representing over 575 attendees at an average of \$5 per person. Overall revenue amounted to \$5,430, with expenses of \$3,075 for a surplus of \$2,355

The parade kicked it off in great style - nothing like the bagpipes to stir our souls. After the parade entered the grounds, everyone watching and cheering its arrival joined together and flowed into the grounds as one. We are the Parade. Thank you, Donna Tuele, for coordinating and to the participants in an uplifting start.

Following the Land Acknowledgement and recognition of community members, our students in the Indigenous welcome song that was gifted to School District 71. The drums and voices drew us together in this special place. Thank you, MC Pat Mullan, Ted Tanner (sound) and all the musicians who shared their gifts with us.

The Harvest Competition was also a great success. We had more entries, with great breadth and variety, even in a challenging year for growing. Enormous thanks are due to Therese Schwab and Julie Paris, who brought experience and advance planning to coordinate a wonderful group of stewards and judges. You all made harvest abundance and local food security front and centre at the Fair. Thanks also to Donna Tuele, Jan Bevan and Brittany Andrews for bringing their horses, goats and ducklings.

As always, the 15 Harvest Basket were beautiful and abundant, raising \$1,375 from the generous producers.

Food vendors offered a range of food offerings and sold out signs. Thanks to all those volunteers and to all of you who made their fundraisers such a success.

Many thanks to the other non-profits that bring content and connection. All of these booths represent dedicated volunteers working together to make Hornby safe, healthy, sustainable, resilient and loving. We also thank the market vendors who work all year, feeding us with the best local food and with creative works – and make an extra day to connect with just islanders.

The Fair Committee wants to shine a very bright light on the amazing volunteers who put together the framework, the setting for whatever the community brings to the party. We are so grateful for these two-day wonder-workers. If you put up a tent, strung a rope, carried a table, please consider yourself thanked.

We express our appreciation to sponsors – Hornby Island Co-op, First Credit Union, Hornby Island Bakery and Pizzeria, Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers'.

And much thanks for the good will, flexibility and support within the Fall Fair Committee. It has been a great pleasure to work together.

Many thanks, Aly Sachedina, Chelka Mackeson, Landys Klyne, Sheila McDonnell, Jonattan Mendoza.

Hornby Regional Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Report

Here is a brief review of work what went on in Hornby's Regional Parks in 2023.

- There were several trail work upgrades that have improved trail sustainability – Fairy Slippers, Not No Horses, Yeoman's, and Double Cross.
- Have completed adding grip mesh to all known bridges that have needed it including: Double Cross, Outer Fringe, Walton, No Horses, Spasm Chasm skinny, small bridge at entrance to Lea Smith from parking.
- The trail signage upgrade design was completed and installation took place in August. This was a huge project and its success was due to Daniel May's leadership and direct involvement. Large park maps have been installed at Lea Smith, Cemetery, Slade, Northwind and Strachan entrances. Hub maps to be installed over next couple months.
- Jessie's bridge repair was completed in February. Proactive tree work was completed within bridge area to avoid future damage.
- Lots of tree work over the last couple months.
- The Invasive Plants Committee focused their efforts near the Rainforest Trail and removed significant amounts of holly.
- CVRD has been very supportive of collaboration with HIMBA (Hornby Island Mountain Bike Association). It was so great to see volunteers finally working on the trails again. The cooperation between HIMBA, CVRD and the Conservancies on the Double Cross trail was a landmark. We hope to see this model of shared work continue.

Upcoming work

- Annual site visit to view covenanted lands within Regional Park
- Lea Smith stairs upgrades – work to start shortly and include fixing trail surfacing, creating consistency with tread heights, adding railings where necessary, some small re-alignments and replacing tread grip/mesh
- Final planning in progress for Milo's Meadow capital project – expected installation in Apr-Jun
- Final planning in progress for Walton and French Connection upgrades (including connection to Depot Trail) – expected installation in Apr-Jun.
- Devil's Kitchen gap feature modification
- Replacing the bollards at Slade and Strachan and adding a bollard at Coltsfoot near Spark.

Water Stewardship Committee *Separate PDF*