

Consolidated Committee Annual Reports for May 14, 2025 HIRRA AGM

Executive Report looking back on the 2024 year

Events:

- The Anniversary Event in February 2024 celebrated 50 years as the official “Hornby Island Residents’ and Ratepayers’ Association” and 70 years (or more) of “Ratepayers” meetings. Lots of cake, photo slide show, music and speeches, including memories from one of the earliest Executive members, Don Nixon.
- The Volunteer Appreciation event in November with funding from Baynes Sound Lions Club, celebrated HIRRA Committee volunteers with pizza, snacks and good conversations.

Internal:

- The Executive Strategic Planning session planned for the Fall was delayed by a big storm and power outage, but went ahead this February.
- CVRD required an audit for 2024 year, which impacted Financial staff time and the Administration Core Services budget.
- An unfortunate Sage accounting software data loss in August resulted in many extra staff hours to re-enter and double-check the data. Thanks to our dedicated staff for their hard work.
- Long-time Financial Administrator, Joanne Ovitsland, gave several months’ notice and trained Angeleah Hoeppner to take over the position this spring.
- Sadly, Heather Dawn Caton is stepping down from the Executive at this AGM. Many thanks to Heather for serving as Secretary over the past year and encouraging the Executive to reach out to island youth in particular. We are still hoping to engage with the Hornby students to have a youth delegation at a HIRRA meeting.

Tech improvements:

- Fibre optic internet was installed at the HIRRA office and Community Hall.
- Hybrid meetings returned to the Community Hall.
- Getting sound working optimally for both in-person and Zoom participants has been an ongoing challenge.

Community:

- A new sign for the Sollans Road Community Well and Handpump was designed and installed with assistance from Water Stewardship Committee.
- The Community Vision 2040 was ratified by the HIRRA membership in May. HIRRA continues to work with HICEEC on layout and printing of a Community Vision booklet planned distribution this month.
- Interesting community topics discussed at 2024 HIRRA meetings included:
 - ~changes to after-hours emergency care,
 - ~BC Parks plans for Tribune Bay Park,
 - ~Ferry service issues, and
 - ~Hornby Village Centre Planning.

Boat Ramp Report 2024 Annual Report

This past year has seen significant progress on the project to replace the boat ramp at Shingle Spit with a new state of the art, safe and more functional boat ramp. Progress has been made possible in large part due to the involvement of Daniel Arbour to secure substantial funding to make the project a reality. In May 2024 a community meeting was held at the Shingle Spit boat ramp attended by 20 or so folks to respond to preliminary designs and a presentation by Cascara consulting engineers. As a result of the meeting and subsequent input by folks, detailed design drawings were prepared which responded to those inputs.

Director Daniel May of the CVRD has directed this project over the past several years which has also involved the inputs and approvals of relevant senior government agencies and First Nations. The CVRD has planned to distribute tender packages for the project either last week or this week. It is hoped that the responses will permit construction to begin early this summer when tides are favourable and impacts to marine life will be minimized.

The Advisory Committee members have been active in replying to information as it has become available. I am pleased to report that almost all responses and inputs to this project to date have been positive. As the project proceeds the Committee will most likely be involved with future operational issues such as parking and launch management issues as well as possible fee structures to help offset operational costs.

Cemetery Stewards Annual Report for 2025 AGM

Committee members standing for 2025:

- Larry Smith, Gloria Herbert, Tina Wai and Kathleen O'Brien all have agreed to continue their terms until 2026 AGM
- Ian Palmer and Barb Inglis are standing for re-election in 2025 for two-year terms
- Jazzmyre Corrigan is willing to join the Cemetery Committee which will complete our quorum. Welcome Jazzmyre.
- Gemma Colin has decided to retire from the Cemetery Committee after being a strong supportive leader for 25 years. We all appreciate the compassionate guidance, wisdom and devotion and fun Gemma has committed to the Cemetery over her 25 years; she will be missed by us all.

Ian Palmer has graciously stepped forward to assume the role of Spokesperson for the Hornby Island Cemetery Committee for which we Stewards are all grateful.

Stats:

Number of UNOCCUPIED FULL BODY GRAVES in Cemetery...**39**

Number of OCCUPIED FULL BODY GRAVES..... **72**

Number of UNOCCUPIED CREMATION SITES in Cemetery.....**49**

The last number includes 35 sites in Row C which are still in the process of being cleared.

Number of OCCUPIED CREMATION SITES in Cemetery.....**62**

- In the past year Jan 1 to Dec 31 2024 the cemetery has had 7 cremation internments.
- Yet again we acknowledge the consistently fine maintenance of the cemetery by Mike Works Landscaping. Mike also came to the rescue with his chainsaw early in 2024 when a storm

knocked several trees down onto the Cemetery property. As ever, Michael goes way beyond the call of duty.

- For many years we have wanted to replace our old and often unreadable grave markers. Gloria finally found a Canadian Cemetery supply that had markers for about a third of the price we had previously been quoted by American firms. An estimate of the cost to totally replace all markers was calculated. We applied for a grant from the Hornby Community Fund, extra Book Sale Revenue and very generously received \$1,000 to help cover the cost of this refurbishment. The new markers have arrived and are now installed in the cemetery. We found them easy to install, they are sturdy and have substantially upgraded our mapping system.

- We have received two new 3" x 5" memorial plaques which are situated in the Portal at the entry to the Cemetery. This option is open to those with strong ties to Hornby but are buried elsewhere.

- We are grateful to the families/friends who have obtained permanent headstones for their loved ones and have committed to the maintenance of the grave site. A reminder too that we require permanent headstones with full name and date of birth and death to be in place within one year of interment. We also require assurance the gravesite will be maintained by the person who dealt with the Cemetery Committee, or by an appointed local person chosen by the family/friend.

- There are currently 39 full body burial plots available. For future expansion of the Cemetery we are applying for so-called Crown Land on the north side toward the Coltsfoot Trail. Our intention is to disturb the existing forest as little as possible to allow for cremated or aquamation remains to be buried in that area once the Cemetery is full. Katherine Rowan has kindly volunteered to apply on behalf of our Committee having had recent experience applying for Crown land for a different project.

Comfort Stations Committee 2024 Annual Report

We continue to operate four permanent outhouses year-round – at Sandpiper Park, Little Tribune Bay, Big Tribune Bay (bottom of Shields Road) and Whaling Station Bay. We rent two portable outhouses from Canada Day weekend to Labour Day weekend, located at Grassy Point and on HIRRA property at Sollans Road near the community hall. An additional portable is rented at this location for the duration of the Farmers' Market season; this is paid for by the Farmers' Market.

We continue to be blessed by excellent cleaning staff: Sanae Work, with Colleen Work available as back-up. Utilization of the outhouses (including in the off-seasons) and the cost of operating them continue to creep up each year

We are expecting that the old and well-used outhouse at Little Tribune Bay will be replaced this year. (This had been planned for last year by the CVRD, which has a budget in place, but archaeological work has to be completed first.)

The other old outhouses at Whaling Station Bay and Big Tribune Bay continue to be monitored. We anticipate that the latter will 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.

We receive occasional requests for a permanent outhouse at Grassy Point Park. This is something that would have to be considered and initiated by the Regional District which manages the park. The rocky terrain would be a significant barrier.

This Committee is supposed to have three members. Last year, Daniel Siegel joined as a second member. We would welcome a third, particularly someone who would like to take on chairing the committee as I am ready to transition. There is not much involved.

Submitted by Tony Law

Community Hall Management Committee (CHC) 2024 Annual Report

2024 marked another successful year of regular and special event bookings at the Hall, receiving Heritage recognition, and success with grants for advancing infrastructure improvements that will take us into spring 2025.

2024 Highlights:

The Hall Booking records marked 272 booked days totalling 1,739 hours use, and 75% available daytime occupancy. The Community Hall supported farmer and winter markets, art and music shows, festivals, workshops, movies, fitness and dance activities, committee, society and government-hosted meetings, private and food service events.

The CHC is supported by a Booking Clerk and Maintenance Coordinator, Hall Cleaner, Hall Maintenance Contractor, and Recording Secretary, who oversee Hall booking contracts, cleaning services, ongoing maintenance and oversight of the Community Hall, and assist with meetings and minutes. During the summer and fall, we welcomed Felicity Roberts and Doug Allen as our newest volunteer members to serve on the Community Hall Committee.

The Committee and staff hire various trades to help with repairs and ongoing maintenance, including but not limited to plumbing repairs, installing a new hot water tank, rope lights and other electrical, pest control, water testing, interior Hall maintenance, septic servicing, fire and safety inspection. Several 2024 highlights follow:

- The Committee was honoured by Heritage BC with a Recognition Award in Heritage BC's *Heritage Planning Category* for their work in developing statements of significance, which led to establishing a Hornby Island Community Heritage Register.
- Our Maintenance Hall Contractor refinished and freshly painted the walls in the Main Hall in June, in time to welcome the busy summer season of Hall rentals.
- The Committee transitioned Community Hall and Green Room internet services from Telus to City West, though Telus land line service will remain for now.
- In September, the Islands Trust Hornby Island Local Trust Committee adopted the *Hornby Island Community Heritage Register*, which includes the Community Hall, and three other heritage buildings on Hornby. These buildings are now listed on the BC Register of Historic Places and the Canadian Register of Historic Places.
- Thanks to grant support from HICEEC, the Memorial Magnolia tree at the back of the Hall was safely relocated in November, in preparation of clearing space for the future accessible washroom.
- Following three years maintaining the Hall Rental Fee schedule, increasing operational costs, including increased or new costs related to insurance, the early 2025 audit,

amortization costs and wages, an increase to Rental Fee Schedule became necessary to take effect January 2025.

- The Committee kept the HIRRA membership, and the greater community updated with five 'Community Hall News' inserts in the First Edition and provided two updates at regular and budget HIRRA meetings.
- Completion of the Green Roof remains outstanding. Additional costs and time were required to complete the work, however the Committee targets completing the roof work through spring 2025.
- The Community Hall now uses an on-line Calendar through the hirra.ca website to show renters user bookings and availability prior to requesting bookings. With the ease of receiving e-transfers for rental fees, the Committee has seen timelier payments to the Hall's revenue budget.
- Two grants confirmed in December 2024, and February 2025, from the Hornby Island Community Fund and Comox Valley Community Foundation to upgrade fixtures for the existing washrooms, additional railings, a new LED Emergency Exit signage and a Hearing Loop system will proceed through 2025.
- The Committee will continue to seek granting opportunities through 2025 to lever the available CVRD Capital funding to construct the vitally important universal and accessible washroom, to ideally advance this project through 2026.

Our Committee welcomes residents to volunteer to serve on the Community Hall Committee. Year-round and part-time residents and ratepayers can join us via our hybrid (in-person/zoom) monthly meetings. We depend on the support of Committee volunteers to work with part-time staff to advance important projects and programming to ensure the Hall building(s) continue to provide accessibility and service for the community.

Thank-you to the CHC members Vicki Birch, Committee Co-chair, Doug Allen, Felicity Roberts, our Hall staff Lynn Nunley, Melissa Lampman, and Micheal Hills (until summer 2024), for managing another eventful year!

Prepared by Margaret Birch, Committee Co-Chair, for the Community Hall Management Committee April 8, 2025

Hornby Island Emergency Preparedness 2024 Annual Report

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

HIEPC 2024 work: we continued discovering and defining the exact nature of the work to be done and confirming an ongoing presence in the Hornby community through communication and hosting events.

Priorities for HIEPC are to support and encourage emergency preparedness for individuals, households/families, neighbourhoods and our extended community. This focus includes working with permanent residents, part-time residents and informing/educating accommodation hosts and their visitors who arrive and stay on our island. This focus on visitors to our island is new and something that we intend to expand on in our communications work/efforts

Our core program/initiative is our Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP), which grounds our communities in making connections, establishing communication and

working together so that in the aftermath of a disaster these neighbourhoods can be self-reliant. Well-organized neighbourhoods are more resilient, they have the capacity respond faster, helping to save lives, reduce injuries and trauma, and minimize property damage.

We are critically aware that our work is to support Emergency PREPAREDNESS and not spearhead Emergency response; this is a useful insight, as a small Committee we need to establish 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) Public Education and Outreach
- 4) Liaisons with other organizations and agencies on Hornby and in the Comox Valley.

Projects

2024 saw the conclusion of our work related to generators; we handed off the emergency generator to the Hall, with specific instructions and advice for use.

We established that the trailer we have, to be used in emergency circumstances and when the HIEPC is required to transport materials/resources to public events could be stored on Hornby Island Fire Rescue land, a location 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 on Hornby. We continue to endeavour to have volunteers to support organization in as many of these local neighbourhoods as possible.

Essential to this effort is working with volunteers to support them with communication tools that we know work well. We have accessed resources used by a local organizer, and also sought information about how best to work in a community where there may have been conflicts between neighbours. Providing NEPP volunteers with ideas, advice and resources when they gather in their neighbourhood continues to be part of the work done.

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

Public Education and Outreach

We established that there was a need to improve our online/web resources and determined a more useful landing page and resources; we will continue to improve this online material to provide Hornby-specific information and content.

We submit articles (thank you, Tom!) in each First Edition (appreciation for those who make this monthly publication possible!) to educate about Emergency Preparedness as well as to highlight activities and plans that we have for involving and informing our Hornby community.

We arranged to continue publishing the 'Grab and Go' bag page in the 2025/2026 Hornby Island phone book.

Defibrillator mapping: Henry developed a list and locations of AED's on Hornby, published on the Pulsepoint app; the Cape Gurney pump-house location (available 24/7) now has a "AED here" sign.

We initiated the development of a new resource designed for larger accommodations: lodges, campgrounds, glamping locations to support them in advising potential guests about the need to arrive prepared for emergencies, as well as providing some guidance for emergency plans for their location. This is an extension of our education/communication resources aimed at those hosting visitors and an effort to reach people who intend to stay on Hornby.

A "Community Drop-in" public education event was held in April in the Round Room at the Community Hall. The focus was on Grab and Go Bags, providing support for people developing these for their own use. Through give-aways, and door prizes we engaged 50+ people. Through this event and our promotion of it, we generated interest/insight into the value of these resources in personal or medical emergencies as well as for larger emergency circumstances.

We hosted a booth at the Fall Fair in order to profile our Neighbourhood Map and awareness of our work, and to continue to inform and invite participation and involvement in Emergency Preparedness on Hornby Island for residents and visitors. 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; in particular thanks to Scott Goodman of Comox Valley Emergency Program (CVEP) for his presence at the Fair, and his exploration of the value of emergency radio operations.

In November we hosted a NEPP volunteer appreciation lunch which featured a special presentation by Scott Goodman, volunteer HAM radio coordinator (and CVEP staff). Scott presented an introduction to radio communications and their utility in emergency management. Along with some radio games to teach the use of walkie talkies, this occasion offered an opportunity for neighbourhood volunteers to get acquainted and knowledgeable about who else on the Island is involved in this work.

Liaisons

Amy provided information and support for NEPP organizers in Courtenay, sharing some of our experience and activities.

bernie attended the Islands Trust Wildfire Information presentation (via Zoom) and determined that the information we are sharing with people on Hornby is consistent with what they wish to convey.

Boat Ramp Liaison: we invited a representative of the Boat Ramp Committee to meet with us in early spring; when there was a scheduled site visit in May, with the Regional District, bernie and Amy attended, providing important emergency preparedness information/advice to be considered in designing the new facility.

HAM Radio: Amy continues to work with HAM radio operators on Hornby and Scott Goodman in an effort to establish a hub of people on the island who would be trained and prepared to support emergency communication should the need arise.

Work with HICEEC is ongoing, including provision of content for their tourism map to encourage visitors to be aware of the importance of considering emergency preparation when they plan to visit Hornby

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 meetings and events.

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

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

We also wish to thank Duncan MacCaskill, our 'computer whisperer' for his inspired work on our website, and his avid interest in radio use in emergency circumstances.

Respectfully submitted, bernie kowey, Amy LeBaron, Tom Ruth, Henry Touwslager, Albini LaPierre, Thor Kuhlmann

Hornby Island Fire Protection 2024 Annual Report

NOTE: *The Hornby Island Fire Protection Committee and Hornby Island Fire Rescue 2024 Annual Report is a separate 3p. PDF*

Fall Fair Report 2024 Annual Report

In September of last year we had another joyous Fall Fair at Rosemuir farm with the theme of Seeds for Change. We were blessed with great weather and each other's company for a fun day out.

The Hornby Fall Fair does bring in a considerable revenue and our current balance is \$13,298. This allows the committee to purchase and maintain things like canopies and tables that other community organizations/events can benefit from, for example, Heron rocks plant sale, Hornby festival, the Preschool auction and the Neighborhood emergency preparedness group.

Two things the committee is planning to purchase this year are a cargo trailer so that we can have all the Fall Fair belongings in one place and transport them all at once, to and from the Fair grounds, and, a 10x15 tent that is more suited for a stage shelter.

The Hornby Fall Fair is an awesome event thanks to all the people who show up and get involved whether it's baking pies or eating pie, volunteering, entering the competition, donating harvest baskets, dancing, dressing up for the parade or watching the parade.

We're just starting to meet again to organize this year's Fall Fair which will be on Sunday 14th of September with the theme of 'DIRT'!

If there's something you'd like to see at the Fair then get in touch with a committee member and we'll see if we can help you make it happen.

Invasive Plant Control 2024 Annual Report

It was a busy year for invasive plant control. After the decision to tackle *Ilex aquifolium* (English Holly) on Hornby, our potential workload increased exponentially. We had groups of 2 to 5 regular contractors who worked 4-hour shifts almost weekly throughout the year and did excellent thorough work.

Approximately half of our budget was used to continue to kill English Holly in Rainforest Trail area CVRD Park land. We completed the main trail area and began working on the western,

untrailed portion of this park space. This space borders heavy Holly infestation from private property along Savoie Road, so there is a lot of Holly remaining in this park to remove.

A few very mature Holly shrubs were removed from the top of Yer Mom trail as well as smaller Holly along Summit and Rim Shot trails.

Some time was spent removing *Daphne laureola* on private land in the Mount Road, Channel Road and Parnell Road area as well as the southern end of the large cooperative property known as The Shire. A donation was received to help dispose of some of this private Daphne.

Scotch Broom was primarily handled through volunteer work, with a few dedicated volunteers returning to the known infested areas along Roburn Road, gravel pit at Summit Trail, Joe King Park, the Works yard and the end of Texada Road. A successful volunteer party with the older Hornby school children as part of their school day was held in spring, with much Broom cleared from around the schoolyard.

Thanks to a grant of \$3,000 from BC Parks issued in the summer of 2024, a good start was made on eradicating English Holly that has infested the Mt Geoffrey Escarpment Park since long ago and has not been addressed until now. This work continued until the grant deadline in March 2025, after which over 5,000 Holly shrubs were removed, or curtailed and over 60kg of berries along Middle Bench trail were bagged and disposed of. Several hundred Daphne were also removed from this part of the park. More work needs to be done on this BC Parks land. We are applying for another grant in 2025.

This work, outside the normal HIRRA Invasive Plant Control committee jurisdiction of CVRD Regional Park land, Crown Land and private property is important, as spread of Holly has been obviously going both ways between park land and private land. Some Holly specimens in the park were 30 centimeters in diameter, indicating long time infestation.

Educational articles appeared in the Hornby First Edition newspaper six times in 2024. Committee members sat the Co-op porch for Earth Day and solicited donations as well as answered questions and handed out information brochures. There was a speaker, Hunter Jarratt, brought to Hornby in November to speak to about 50 community members at New Horizons about invasive plants and protection of our native ecosystems.

We received a donation of \$1,000 towards disposal of invasive plant material at the Depot, which began in January 2025 and continues. The Depot staff is tracking this.

Phone calls and emails from residents about invasive plants on their property have increased significantly. This is how we prioritize work on private property as well as educate property owners about invasive plants. It is rewarding to hear stories of residents taking care of their land.

Liz Earle, Chair, HIRRA Invasive Plant Control







Hornby Recreation 2024 Annual Report

Over this last year our Recreation Committee welcomed some new members, Byron Corner and Jack Thomas who joined Christina Lenic, Donna Tuele and Bonita Wexler. Since our last HIRRA AGM we have had a very successful, active and fun filled summer full of youth programming and we are continuing to offer some well attended weekly drop-in sports for adults at the school gym, as well as offering some fun community events and activities.

Our summer schedule for July and August 2024 ran for 9 weeks and consisted of 11 different programs offered. Ninja camp and a Nature Camp with Frank Doss, 7 Story Circus with Kaya Kehl and Artistic Movement with Cathy Coates and Rootz and Dance with Pantuso Dance Studio and Christy Kooman all returned for our 2024 summer season. These amazing instructors have been offering these programs to Hornby's youth and visitors alike for almost 10 years or more. We also offered Kayaking with Faroe De Roches, Nature Connections with Jala Klone, Golf with Amanda Wilkinson, Cartooning with Tyler Manson and Swim Safe Ocean Adventures with Jess Hicks. We are incredible grateful for

our program instructors and their passion for their program. A lot of our instructors travel to Hornby to share their skills with our community's youth and visitors alike. We hope to continue to see these instructors return in the years to come. This Swim Safe Ocean Adventures program was a new program for our summer 2024 season. Jess has been teaching swimming lessons on Denman Island for the past few summers, and I am so glad we were able to connect. This program was well attended and so fun! There were swim lessons, paddle boarding, snorkelling and a gigantic floating unicorn involved! Last but not least we brought back the Hornby Sailing program!! This was an enormous task, and we pulled it off. We have a fleet of 6 Opti sailing boats perfect for youth sailing and had a certified Sailing instructor come back last summer who had been here in the past when we offered sailing with the MOSS Sailing program offered by BC Sailing. We had offered 3 weeks in total but due to an unexpected family emergency with the instructor we successfully completed 2 weeks of sailing. A huge thank you the Donna Tuele, Alan from Hornby Island Sailing, Jean, Harbour Master and Fords Cove. Your efforts in supporting a Hornby Youth Sailing program does not go unnoticed. Thank you. All our programs were well attended and ran out of the school gymnasium, the school multi-use room, school grounds, room to grow, Tribune Bay and Ford Cove. We are now gearing up for another fun summer coming soon.

We are grateful for our Community School here on Hornby and the community access we have within our school and more specifically, the gym! We have been running weekly drop-in sports at the school gym since the fall. Mondays is indoor soccer 6-8pm, Tuesdays is pickleball 5-8pm, Wednesdays is basketball 5-6:30pm and Floor Hockey 6:30-8pm and Thursdays are tennis 5-6pm and badminton 6-8pm. These drop-in programs are well attended and all you need is a clean pair of footwear to attend. All these activities are listed in a calendar on our website for more information. www.hornbyrecreation.ca.

In the fall we were SO EXCITED to bring back a Family Dance!! It had been before covid since we have had our last family dance, so this was very exciting! Thank you to June Canon and the band! This style of event truly only happens because of June Canon and the band and because of all the keen dancers who attend. Its super fun. Save the date as we have a Family Dance coming up on Friday May 16th. Hope to see you there.

In the fall and winter, we offered a couple skate and swims in Courtenay. These town events were well attended by families, but I wanted to put out a reminder that anyone can attend these events! They can skate at different times and attend the pool anytime on the same day for the same reduced price this event offers.

Recently this spring we dragged 2 of our table tennis tables down to the Ringside and set up for a Sunday afternoon. This was a great way to see folks that would not usually attend a recreation event. Folks would linger after buying their groceries to play a round of ping pong. We have plans in the works to see how we can offer Ringside table tennis throughout the summer months.

Easter weekend has just passed, and we hosted an Easter Scavenger Hunt. We handed out a map and a checklist and the hunt was self led by participants. They were to spot all the hidden eggs and write down the hidden message. Once they returned with the message they receive a prize. We had a great turn out of 47 kids participating.

Dates coming up: We have a Family Dance May 16. We are in the works of planning our community baseball team and our summer brochure is under way with hopes to be published at the end of May. Stay tuned for these dates and reach out if you ever have any questions, suggestions or would love to offer a program, event or share an idea.

Written by Jade Wilson, Recreation Coordinator

Hornby Island Recycling Depot Highlights of 2024

Electronics & Electric Appliance Waste: The fastest growing waste stream in Canada is electronics and electric appliance waste. This surge has prompted the introduction of the Moderate Risk Hazardous Materials Legislation in 2024, aimed at protecting the environment from these hazardous materials.

To address this the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has started construction on an addition to the Hornby Island Recycling Depot's recycling building for end-of-life electronics and electric appliances. This facility will ensure proper disposal and recycling of these items. Additionally, working electronics and electric appliances will be available to the public through the Free Store, promoting reuse and reducing waste.

The Hornby Island Recycling Depot has signed up with City West for internet connectivity. A site visit revealed the need for additional cabling, and while the cable routing from the road is still pending, we are waiting patiently for progress to be made.

Special thanks to Jack Carriers for his help in laying out the "**We Store**" repurposed building material yard fence, and to Jason Long for digging post holes. Building materials received from CVRD will be used to install the perimeter fencing and gate. The Hornby Island Recycling Depot is looking for volunteers, similar to those in the Free Store, to monitor incoming and outgoing materials.

The Biffy received two coats of stucco paint in the spring of 2024, thanks to the excellent work of Michael Hills. These improvements enhance the facility's appearance and functionality.

After a website crash the Hornby Island Recycling Depot now has a new website, thanks to Angeleah Hoepfner, available at <https://recycling.hirra.ca>.

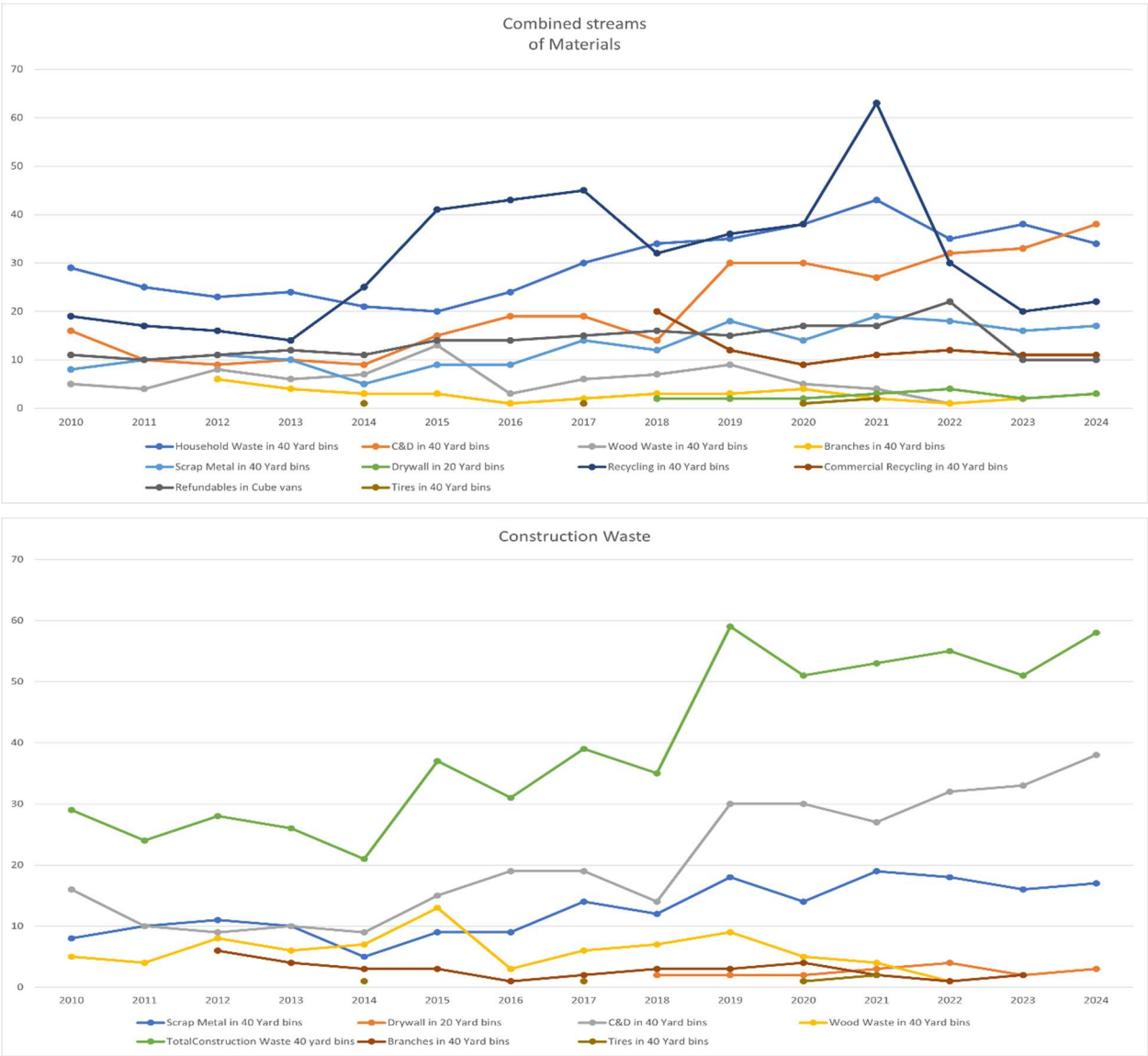
The Hornby Island Recycling Depot has launched several new recycling programs to address various waste streams:

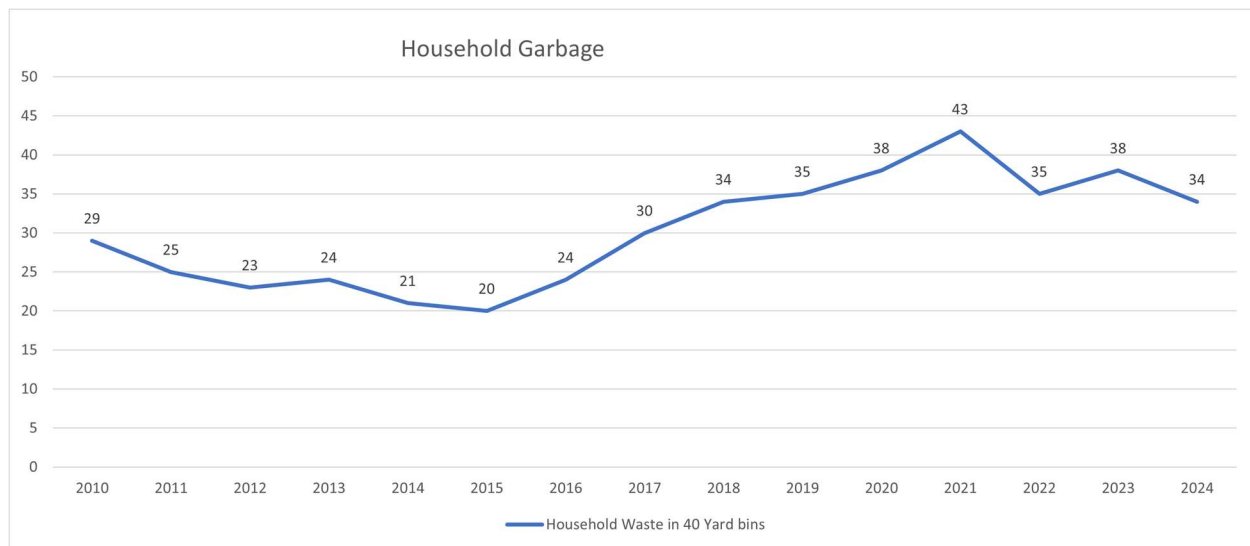
Used Cooking Oil Collection: Started in late November 2023, with drop-offs every Friday at the Product-Care Building.

Cigarette Recycling Program: Collects cigarette butts and packaging. In its first year, 25 kg of butts have been collected and sent to the recycler.

Disposable Razors Program: Newly started, this program collects all disposable razors for recycling.

These are some highlights of 2024 from the Hornby Island Recycling Depot and show our commitment to sustainable waste management and community involvement. We are addressing the growing waste streams and implementing effective recycling programs that are paving the way for a cleaner, greener future.





Hornby Regional Parks and Trails Committee Report 2024

2024 was another productive and busy year.

There were three trail reroutes and upgrades, Milo's Meadow, Walton and French Connection, improving trail sustainability.

Hub map signs were installed on the mountain along with a few more trail name signs, direction and rating improvements, completing the trail signage project.

Lea Smith stairs have new mesh and some repair was done.

Jessie's Bridge repair was completed, and some proactive tree work was done in the area.

After the October and November windstorms which dropped over 70 trees on the trails, Daniel May and Dan Hamilton worked extremely efficiently to clear the trails. Thank you to them and all the other trail users who helped clear debris from our trails, a big job.

The Invasive Plant Control Committee worked very hard to clear holly from the Rainforest

HIMBA (Hornby Mountain Bike Association) has scheduled regular work days, getting good turnouts. They were working in the Upper Purgatory area. Thank you to them for all the maintenance on the trails.

Darren Bond of Water Stewardship Committee gave us a presentation about "keeping water on the land." As the Trails Committee advises on a large area of Hornby, we want to have the best water management practices as part of trail building and maintenance.

Fire Chief Doug Chinnery spoke to us of incidents on the mountain and what is involved with mountain rescue. He also showed us some of the new rescue gear.

A Community Trails Survey was launched and the response was very good. It focused on Roadside Trails and neighborhood trails. The conclusions are now available on the HIRRA website: <https://hirra.ca/services/parks/>.

Water Stewardship Committee 2024 Report

NOTE: The Water Stewardship Committee 2024 Annual Report is a separate 4p. PDF