



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

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HIRRA AGM May 2026 Committee Annual Reports

HIRRA Executive Report for May 2026 AGM Highlights from 2025

Financial:

- Completed HIRRA's first full audit.
- Joanne Ovitsland moved on to work for the Fire Department and Angeleah Hoepfner became HIRRA's Financial Administrator.
- Hired an accountant to provide support and advice as Contract Financial Controller.

Policy updates:

- Bylaws revised and approved to allow for a later AGM (in May) so there is time to complete the year-end audit as required by the CVRD.
- Conflict Resolution Policy revisions approved.
- Retirement Bonus Policy approved.
- Accessibility Policy approved.
- Digital Assistance/AI Use Policy drafted and discussed.

General:

- Renewed 3-year multi-service contract with CVRD for managing tax-funded services.
- Added accident insurance for HIRRA volunteers (similar to WorkSafe coverage for workers).
- Improved sound set up for hybrid meetings at the Hall.
- Completed a successful Executive Strategic Planning Session facilitated by Darren Bond.
- Initiated a "Lend Your Voice" opening performances at HIRRA meetings.
- Held several Executive outreach sessions on the Co-op porch and at Fall Fair.
- Circulated a survey on HIRRA using questions from a similar survey in 1997.
- Hosted the first in-person Community Conversation on "The Future of Living and Working on Hornby" (very well attended and inspiring).
- Hornby Village Centre Planning group became an ad hoc (temporary) Committee of HIRRA.

Property Management:

- Renewed lease for the RCMP office building.
- Sollans Road Community Well chemical test showed excessively high Manganese that required posting a "do not consume" notice.
- Challenged by liability insurance requirements regarding snow clearing. Fortunately, it didn't snow.

Miscellaneous:

- Provided layout for the Hornby Community Vision 2040 Booklet in collaboration with HICEEC.
- Supported The First Edition volunteers in discussing options and finding new Editor and Layout volunteers.
- Jeff and Wrena had another baby and Jeff still continued as President!

Tax-funded Committee reports:

Highlights of 2025 for the Hornby Island Recycling Depot

In 2025, after 15 years after the untimely passing of Tempest Grace Gale, the Russian Olive Trees that were planted in memory of Pest as part of the depot garden, carried fruit for the first time.

As highlighted in last year's report, Electronics and Electric Appliance Waste are the fastest growing waste stream in Canada. This surge 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), constructed an addition to the Hornby Island Recycling Depot's recycling building to house end-of-life electronics and electric appliances in 2025. This facility ensures proper storage and facilitates the recycling of these items. Additionally, working electronics and electric appliances are now available to the public through the Free Store, thus promoting reuse and reducing waste.

The Hornby Island Recycling Depot had signed up with City West for internet connectivity in 2024. Throughout 2025 we waited patiently for the fibre optic service to be installed at the recycling depot. Still waiting.

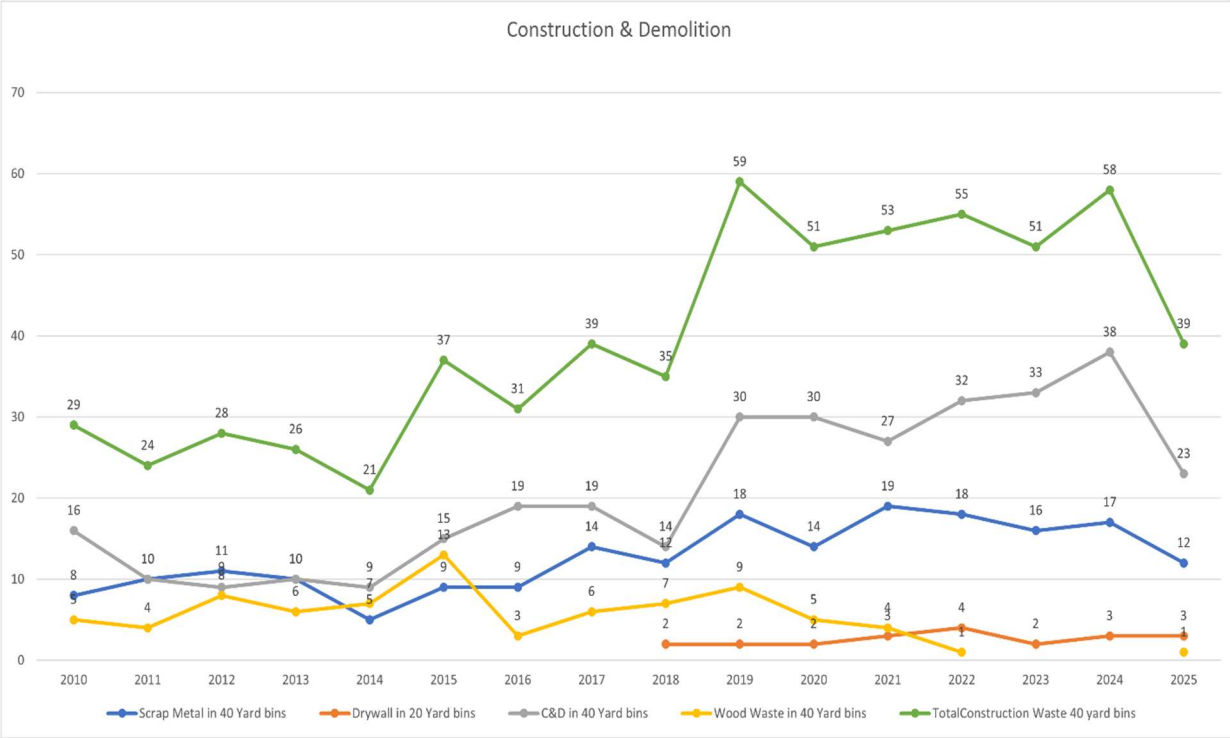
In October 2025 the construction and demolition waste rates we pay at the landfill increase by 20%, to encourage the diversion from landfill for these materials. To facilitate the repurposing of these materials in a safe manner we established the "We Store", a construction and demolition waste materials repurposing yard. Special thanks to Jack Carriers and Scott Hardy for putting up the fence and preparing the area. Thanks to Jazzmyre Corrigan and Pat MacLeod for the promotion around the project. All building materials used for the yard construction were supplied by the CVRD. Volunteers are, similar to those in the Free Store, monitoring incoming and outgoing materials.

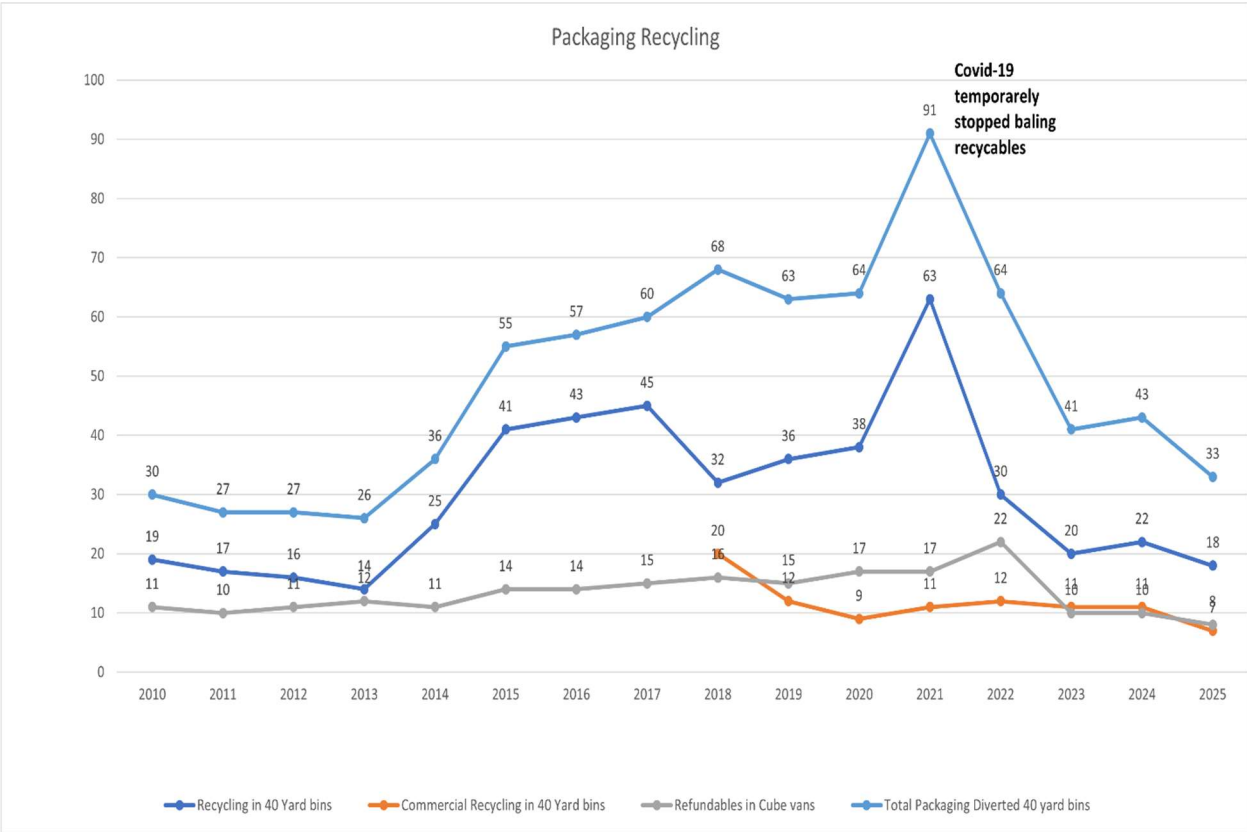
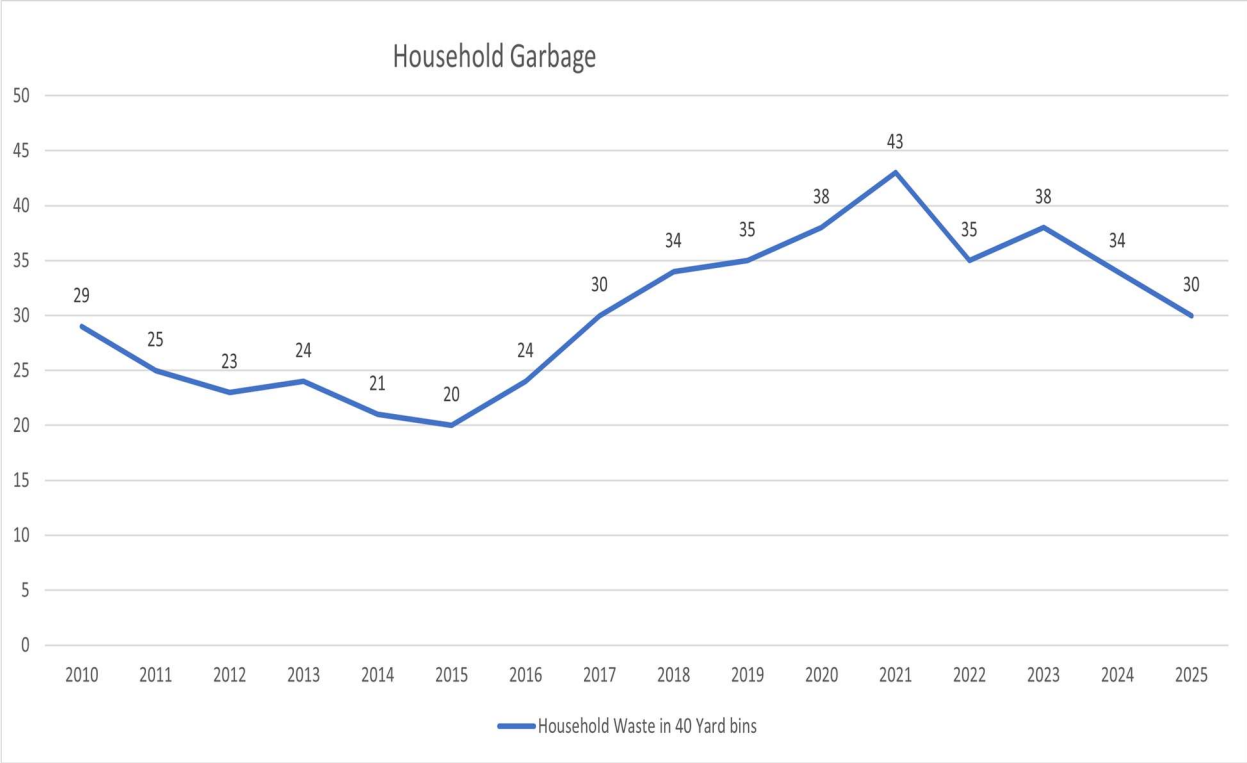
We received new composters. Unfortunately, their shipping cost has increased, and we now have to charge \$125, taxes included, to break even.

The Free Store traffic was extremely busy during the summer of 2025. On August 14 alone, we recorded 312 patrons visiting the Free Store between the hours of 10am and 12 noon. Whereas only 86 patrons visited the Recycling Centre between 9am and 1pm on the same day. Parking was so limited that free store patrons parked on the narrow road up to the Recycling building. This of course made entering and leaving the Recycling Depot rather difficult.

Due to the high cost of liability insurance for snow removal, HIRRA, the Recycling Committee, and management have decided in the fall of 2025, to close the Recycling Depot during periods of unsafe snow conditions. Depot staff will continue to clear snow to promote faster melting and to complete essential on-site tasks. However, the Depot will remain closed to the public until all snow and ice have thawed and conditions are deemed safe for access.

These are some highlights of 2025 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 Recreation Annual Report April 2026

Written by Jade Wilson-previous Recreation Coordinator
Read by Emily Cardon, Recreation Coordinator

Our summer schedule for July and August 2025 was packed with fun and engaging programming. We are incredibly grateful for our instructors and the passion they bring to their work. Many of them travel to Hornby each year to share their skills and talents with our community's youth and visitors alike.

Our Summer programs are catered to local and visiting youth ranging in ages 7-13. We offered Nature Camp and Ninja Camp with Frank Doss, Circus with Kaya Kehl, Artistic Movement with Cathy Coates, Pantuso Dance with Christy Kooman, Ocean Swim adventures with Jess Hicks. We also offered some new to us programs like rope making and knot tying with Frank Doss, lip-balm and bath bomb making as well as eco jewelry and fine jewelry making with Michelle Simon.

Hornby Recreation has been working hard to get our sailing program back up and running over these last couple of summers and with hard work thanks to the Tueles we had a super successful sailing program this last summer. Despite some strange weather and smokey days it was very well attended, and everyone had a blast!

We continue to offer adult user group activities in the school gymnasium during weekday evenings for pickleball, indoor soccer, badminton, basketball and floor hockey. These are drop-in weekly activities that are well attended throughout the months September to June 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.

Hornby Recreation and its events and programs truly take a community. We are forever grateful and appreciative of these connections we have made along the way with the Hornby Island Community School, Fords Cove Marina, HIAA, Room to Grow and the community at large. These are some of the locations we use to offer programming and without a Recreation Centre of our own this is vital in allowing us to offer what we do. We are also appreciative of our volunteer Recreation Committee who help keep the ball rolling and support the Recreation Coordinator. Our Current Recreation Committee is Donna Tuele (Chair), Bonita Wexler, Byron Corner and Christina Lenic.

Over the Fall, Hornby Recreation has gone through some changes. Jade Wilson resigned after serving as our Recreation Coordinator over the better part of ten years. She wrapped up her role here with Hornby Recreation at the end of 2025. We are pleased to announce our new Recreation Coordinator, Emily Cardon. Emily comes from a background of being a business owner herself and being involved in youth programming in many avenues. With her organized skillset and positive manner, we are excited to see where she takes Hornby Recreation with her new role.

HIRRA AGM 2025 Report for Invasive Plant Control Committee

2025 was another busy year for Invasive Plant Control, following the trend of increased buy-in from residents and property owners who hire our crew to help them with invasive plants on their properties.

Our 2025 season began with finishing a fall-winter contract with BC Parks to remove English holly and daphne in the Escarpment Park area. We were not successful in getting that grant again for the end of 2025 which is disappointing as that park needs about three more seasons of work. The Middle Bench trail area, where we focused our attention, is looking quite nice and invasive-free.

We spent late winter months in the CVRD park that is attached to Rainforest trail, along the Savoie Road side, where English holly is abundant. Later in the year, we tackled smaller infestations on Mount Geoffrey and the Crown Land around the Hall.

We received one \$2,000 grant from a private property owner with a large stretch of daphne near Ford Cove hill, \$2,500 from another owner near Phipps Point with established ivy, several small contracts around the island, and we have ongoing work with another large property owner along the south side of the island that began in 2025. These owners have been very generous and supportive of our work. These contracts amount to more than our annual budget. Having private property work keeps our crew employed part-time almost year-round.

Some of discretionary budget was used to eradicate some well-established holly shrubs along Central and Slade Roads. These properties all need more work.

We had a very successful volunteer weekend pulling ivy at the DePape beach access in May, a piece of Crown Land that is very overgrown with English ivy. With the help of a grant from the Community Fund, we were able to buy lunch and snacks for the 24 volunteers who showed up and created a pile of ivy the size of a VW van. One year on, the area we cleared was just FULL of fawn and chocolate lilies, which was satisfying to see. We have another work party THIS weekend, Sunday and Monday from noon to 4:00pm. I hope you will all join us. Thanks to Dan and Adele in the neighbouring property who let us tromp all over their front yard to get to this site.

Many hours are still being put in by volunteers who pull broom and daphne when they see it. Thanks to everyone who cares about our native ecosystem,

Along with regular First Edition articles, we produced a bright orange brochure (stocked at the Co-op) listing Hornby's worst invasive plants and recommended procedure for removal. We have just ordered another printing as these are being picked up steadily.

2026 is already busier than last year but you must wait until next year to hear about that.

Liz Earle, Chair, HIRRA Invasive Plant Control Committee



Annual Report 2025

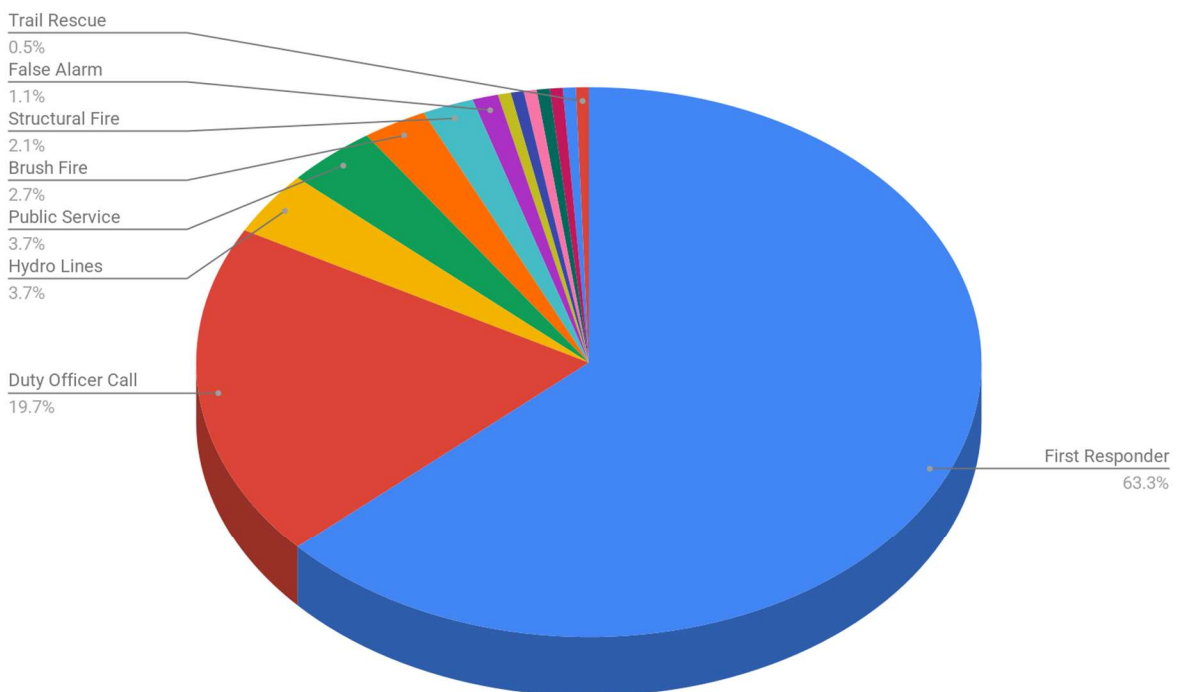
A busy year for incidents and training, and our first deployment on our own.

Callouts and activities

We had four structure fires in 2025, with two being complete losses and one sadly claiming the life of the resident. An indication of the resources that go into structure fire calls is that they accounted for only 2% of our calls but 14% of staff hours.

Year	Practices (hrs)	Incidents (hrs)	Courses (hrs)	Work Party (hrs)	Total (hrs)	Incidents (#)
2025	2714	1080	619	181	4594	188
2024	2314	977	159		3450	184
2023	2206	1087	148		3441	186
2022	2209	987	196		3442	167
2021	2129	960	465		3554	201
2020	2037	972	286		3295	171
2019	2465	1132	130		3802	193

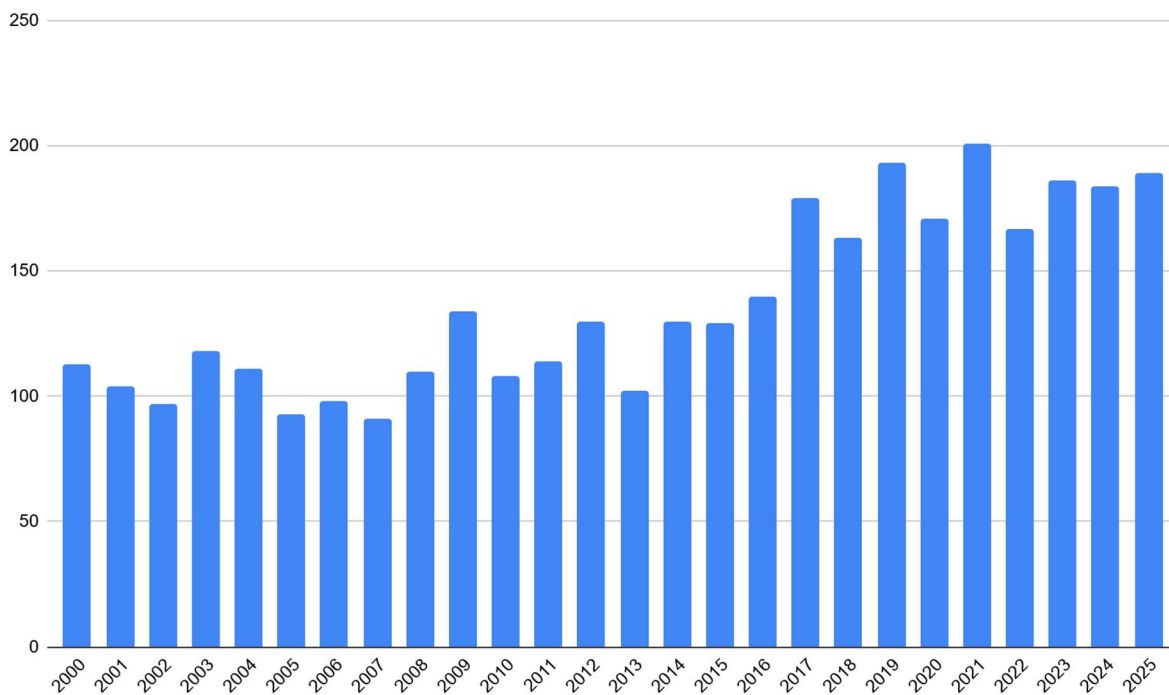
Our incident breakdown for 2025 with a total of 188 calls:



First Responder	119		Structural Fire	4	Motor Vehicle Fire	1
Duty Officer Call	37		False Alarm	2	Propane Gas	1
Hydro Lines	7		Chimney Fire	1	Telephone wires down	1
Public Service	7		Rubbish or Burn Pile	1	Trail Rescue	1
Brush Fire	5		Motor Vehicle Accident	1		

Call breakdown has remained mostly consistent over the last few years.

Call Volume by Year



Significant Events:

- MVI at Phipps
- Four structure fires (Lix, Highways, Roburn, Seawright)
- Mushroom Beach medical
- Buried electrical cord brush fire on Carmichael
- Helivac patient from Downes Pt took 21 staff hours.

Recruitment and Retention

We didn't take on any new members in 2025 because we believed it was more important to get the current people through the pipe and out the other side before investing in new people. With

the progress made in 2025, we are in great shape to take on a new class in 2026. Sadly, we lost Eli, Mino, and Rebecca, all due to moving off island or changing personal circumstances.

Our personnel breakdown is:

- 24 Members
- 18 Firefighters
- 6 Rookies

Jasper started into the Duty Officer rotation just as Albini had to pull back. Sam was promoted to firefighter.

Training

We made excellent progress in getting our newest members through the training pipeline. There are only a couple of items standing between Sam, Taio, and Nanna and their interior certifications. Innes is very close to earning his NFPA 1001-2, and Moragh and Savannah are well-positioned to complete their interior certification in 2026.

The extra training courses that our members took part in this past year are:

SCBA Level 2 technician - 2 members

FR/EMR instructor - 1 member

Air Brake Endorsement – 5 members

Rope Rescue Technician – 8 members

Helicopter Landing Zone - 2 members

ICS100 - 2 members

ISC300 - 1 member

WSPP-115 - 2 members

Fire Prevention and Community Engagement

- Cadet Camp continues to be an important part of our community outreach
- The wildfire risk reduction project for the community-leased lands between the firehall and Solans Road was completed in 2025.

Finance

The operations grant for 2024 was \$248,351. HIFR closed out 2025 with a projected deficit of about \$4,500. Additional capital requisitions were:

- \$35,000 for water tank replacement

Grant Funds

- \$9,000 gear extractor
- \$6,000 SCBA cylinders
- \$7,500 Radios
- \$2,500 Sprinklers
- \$5,000 Deployment equipment

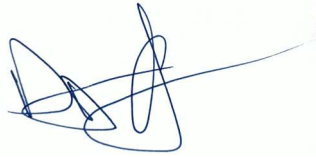
Significant Accomplishments

Here are some of our accomplishments in 2024:

- Sent two members and an apparatus on deployment
- Embarked on a water storage/acquisition project with Climate Readiness Infrastructure Service
- Finished the establishment of the Hornby Island Firefighters Association
- Soup Can replacement began. Problems encountered
- Auto-x pad completed
- Recertification of STSSA
- New CVI service provider. Many fixes to trucks
- New powercot

In Conclusion

Thank you to everyone on HIFR for your hard work and long hours of community service. Every one of us is making a positive difference in our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doug Chinnery', is displayed on a light green rectangular background.

Doug Chinnery,
Fire Chief

Report for 2025: Hornby Island Emergency Preparedness Committee

Our mission statement: To collaborate with other organizations to provide ongoing education and support for **people on Hornby Island** so they can become more prepared for a range of potential emergencies.

Over the 2025 year we continued to gain insight in defining the nature of the work to be done as we establish ongoing education and awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness within the Hornby community, and extend our message to those who visit our island. We do this through communication, education, advertising and hosting relevant events. We also liaise with other organizations and agencies on Hornby and within our region who also support this effort and this work.

Our Emergency Preparedness Committee had an intense 2025 with changes in our focus of communication, loss of key members of our Committee, new people becoming part of our group and adjusting to a new dynamic going into the 2026 year.

Committee focus: Our Spring strategic planning meeting provided an opportunity to step back and consider what we do, who we are. This gathering resulted in our changing our mission statement, as well as establishing that we need to have our Committee identity separated from the NEPP program which, although it is a key initiative/program, is not the entire focus of our work.

Committee identity: We determined that we needed to reduce confusion between “NEPP” (Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program) and “Emergency Preparedness Committee,” and chose to do this by determining a new logo separate and distinct from the NEPP logo to use in our documents and website.

Communication/education focus: We chose to revise our mission statement from supporting “Hornby residents” to support for “people on Hornby,” as communication and education must include both residents and visitors.

We developed and refined a resource to support the focus of emergency preparedness for accommodation providers: campgrounds, glamping, resorts, etc., an extension of our work last year with the STVR hosts on the island and support for these enterprises to consider their plans should an emergency arise on the island or in their specific location.

We continue to prepare and publish articles in the First Edition each month, when possible. (Note in 2025 there were gaps in publication for the FE)

NEPP support: We continue to provide support for NEPP, our pre-eminent program providing NEPP volunteers with resources and information, and working to recruit neighbourhood leads; Amy worked closely with a number of neighbourhoods, in particular the Sandpiper group when they hosted a pop-up event in Sandpiper Park in March. Amy also worked with Duncan to update the NEPP Hornby map with new information about which neighbourhoods were represented in the program.

In November we organized a volunteer tea for NEPP neighbourhood leads to thank and acknowledge the work these individuals do to support their neighbourhood in being prepared for emergencies. We also took this opportunity to introduce “Prepared BC” resources that are easier to use for organizing. Jules Peacock also presented her research on how to prepare for pet safety during an emergency. In addition, Chief Chinnery attended to discuss FireSmart and prevention approaches to consider for our community.

Events: Along with the NEPP volunteer tea, we hosted a Spring event in late May—an all-community education/awareness drop in. This afternoon involved a number of presenters

addressing issues including: Older Adults dealing with Climate Change and possible neighbourhood solutions; Comox Valley Emergency Management representatives providing FireSmart Plant and Landscape resources; Hornby-Denman Health provided information about their Extreme Weather Registry. HIFR hosted fire extinguisher training which included actually extinguishing a fire under supervision.

Fall Fair: We chose, once again, to have our display and information at the Fall Fair, which is a great way to informally provide resources and ideas to the larger Hornby community. We often encounter part-time residents at this event and it is a great way to introduce them to our Committee work and the opportunities NEPP can provide for them/their neighbourhood. At the Fair, we also hosted organizations from the Comox Valley Regional District who support our Emergency Preparedness work: we were thankful to have representatives from the FireSmart team, including an expert on FireSmart plants/landscape, the Emergency Radio Communications team and our representative from Comox Valley Emergency Management, Cari McIntyre. Prior to the Fall Fair members of the Committee met with Cari for dinner on Saturday night, which sparked great ideas for our ability to work together with CVEM and provided us with insight into their capacity to work with us and the Hornby community.

Advertising: In an effort to extend our Emergency Preparedness message to those who visit Hornby Island we chose to advertise in the Hornby Denman Visitor Guide, using the NEPP Logo and a QR code with the statement: *Life is unpredictable: be prepared for emergencies*. In having an ad in this resource, we hope to pique the interest of those viewing the map, so they will check out the document for visitors that we have posted on our website.

Liaisons: We invited Darren Bond of Water Stewardship to attend our April Committee meeting to speak with us about drought, climate change, inventory of Hornby's potable water storage, and impacts on people, as part of building our awareness of the many issues that might arise in an emergency.

Amy attended the Rural Island Economic Partnership Forum on behalf of the Committee. We made a contribution of funds for radio equipment for the Hornby Radio society to help fund a UPS unit for their emergency alert system.

We provided a small stipend for travel support for the Downes Point NEPP Coordinator who was attending radio training to gain HAM radio certification. Radio is one significant and important avenue of communication that is useful in emergencies when other systems might fail.

AED Pulsepoint app: We have added most Hornby AED locations to the Pulsepoint app so that people can find these life-saving devices in an emergency.

Urgent after-hours care: Our Committee wrote a letter requesting ambulance station on Hornby, in support of other community organizations asking for this key medical emergency resource.

We planned for community presentations in 2026 extending our message to different audiences. We have booked presentations for a Seniors 'Lunch and a New Horizons Literary Lunch in late February including a focus on "get notified," system, the need for medical grab and go bags, pet care emergency preparedness, and review of the information in the Prepared BC guides.

Acknowledgement for those who support our work: We wish to extend our appreciation to HIFR, especially Chief Chinnery for the unending support we receive. They extend their knowledge and experience as well as their space and resources in support of 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 and Angeleah, 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.

We also wish to thank Duncan MacCaskill, our computer whiz, for his support for our website, and developing the graphics required for our ad for the Hornby/Denman tourist map

We also have a huge thank you to extend to Amy LeBaron and Albin Lapierre for the years of work they spent involved with the Emergency Preparedness Committee; their longstanding commitment has been key to the development and the progress of this work on Hornby Island. We wish them the best and offer our appreciation for what they have contributed.

Respectfully submitted:

bernie kowey, Tom Ruth, Thor Khulman, Jules Peacock, John Heinegg

Community Hall Management Committee (CHC) 2025 Annual Report

2025 was another remarkable year of regular and special event bookings at the Hall, several extraordinary Hall upgrades and grant success that will support us into spring 2026.

2025 Highlights:

The Hall Booking records marked 295 booked days, some days with multiple day bookings, and representing 82% available daytime occupancy – up nearly 10% increased use from 2024. 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 and workshops, 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, we welcomed Tyler Manson to backfill for Lynn Nunley who was on leave, thereafter, continued to provide support for the Hall, hired as the Hall Maintenance Contractor.

The Committee and staff hire various trades to help with repairs and ongoing maintenance, including but not limited to plumbing upgrades, electrical, pest control, water testing, interior Hall maintenance, safety and accessibility upgrades, fire and safety inspection. Several 2025 highlights follow:

- During March 2025 the existing washrooms were refreshed with three new low flush comfort height toilets, sinks and tap sets and refinished counters, and a wired LED Emergency Exit light installed at the back of the Hall
- The summertime work included a paint refresh of the Main Hall walls and entranceways; furnace and AC servicing including some equipment and venting repairs to keep the Hall and Round Room operating effectively during the hot weather months
- December was busy with additional and essential plumbing upgrades and a new Hearing Loop system for the Main Hall. The Hall mechanical room received new piping and pressure tank replacement, the addition of a raw water tap for ease of water test collection, a levered kitchen tap set and piping upgrades, and a new hot water tank for the Green Room.
- The new Hearing Loop system technology now in place, will enhance hearing with less feedback for Hall visitors living with hearing impairment and wear hearing aids
- Through fall and winter additional graspable railings were installed in the Main Hall and at Hall entrances, lever door handles to the washrooms added improved accessibility for users in the Hall
- Also, through the fall and winter months, the Committee updated project costs to complete the outstanding Hall roof repairs and greening project and construct the accessible washroom addition. The Committee applied to the Hornby Island Community Fund late 2025 for support to complete the roofing project and received successful news near year-end of an outstanding \$18,000 grant for the project
- The Committee has kept the HIRRA membership and greater community updated with six 'Community Hall News' inserts in the First Edition, and provided two updates at regular and budget HIRRA meetings

- The Committee will continue to seek granting opportunities through 2026 to leverage the available CVRD Capital funding to construct the vitally important universal and accessible washroom, ideally to advance this project through 2026

We extend our thanks and gratitude to Committee member Felicity Roberts, who resigned during fall 2025. And now, here our Committee stands with three seniors who desperately need support of volunteers to fill the two available seats to help guide the operations for our beloved Community Hall. Year-round and part-time residents and ratepayers can join us via our hybrid (in-person/zoom) monthly meetings. The Community Hall Committee provides oversight and support to two part-time staff to maintain the Hall, help with maintenance projects and programming to ensure the Hall building(s) continue to provide accessibility and service for the community.

In 2027, the Community Hall will be celebrating its Centennial – 100 years old. Through 2026, the Committee will be in the extraordinary need of additional Committee support and folks that can help us plan events and projects to celebrate the significant milestone of our community heritage building. Please volunteer to lend a hand to help make this significant milestone a memorable event for the community.

Thank-you to the 2025 CHC members Vicki Bale and Margaret Birch, Committee Co-chairs, Doug Allen and Felicity Roberts, Hall staff Lynn Nunley and Melissa Lampman, and contractor, Tyler Manson for managing another eventful year!

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

HIRRA Comfort Stations Committee – 2025 Report

Comfort stations operations ran smoothly in 2025, thanks to the diligent work of employee Sanae Kawahara and the back-up expertise of Colleen Work.

A meeting involving the Committee, representatives of Ford Cove Harbour Authority and Fords Cove Store, the area Highways Manager and the Fire Chief determined a location for an additional seasonal portable outhouse at Ford Cove. This has been approved in the budget for 2026.

Deterioration of the outhouse building at Little Tribune Bay is a concern. A replacement outhouse and vault for this location has been approved as a capital project. Work has not begun due to the need for prior approval by the Archaeological Branch, which has not yet done its assessment. CVRD continues to push for this process to happen and is looking at ways to stabilize the building in the meantime, or possibly use a portable instead.

The use of the comfort stations we provide continues to be high and operating costs continue to increase, particularly for the rental and servicing of portables. One way to reduce operating costs is to replace portables with permanent outhouses. This is only feasible with respect to the two portables located at the Farmers' Market. The capital budget projects replacing these with a permanent double-seater in 2028. The Whaling Station Bay outhouse will need to be replaced within a few years. When the outhouse at the end of Shields Road reaches the end of its life it will not be replaced.

The two members of the Comfort Stations Committee, Tony Law and Daniel Siegel are stepping down due to other commitments in their lives. No potential replacements have yet come forward. Tony Law is willing to provide support to whoever takes this on and to continue with physical tasks such as mowing the grass and clipping the brambles.

Tony Law, April 2025

Other Committees:

Hornby Water Stewardship Annual Report for 2025

General: Completing our second year in 2025 as a Committee of HIRRA has been very satisfying. The underlying administrative support - financial and human resources areas - has allowed us to pursue programs that we otherwise couldn't.

Communication and Education: Information around quantity (e.g. supply and demand), and quality (e.g. bacterial contamination) help to maintain and grow awareness and action by residents and visitors alike.

We publish **monthly articles** - "Water Log" - in the First Edition covering a range of topics (e.g. manganese). Also, almost daily, we post updates on our Facebook page, including up-to-date statistics on groundwater levels, precipitation, and temperature, plus relevant articles, and photos of our projects.

Our **website** looks to act as a stable base of information on water topics, not trying to replicate what can be found elsewhere, but providing Hornby-specific information, and reliable links to professional sources.

The Education Society's *Lifelong Learning* series provides a channel to reach out to the community on topics such as effective rainwater management techniques around the home. We also provide **live talks** to groups, such as the Literary Lunch, and the summer series hosted by the Natural History Society.

Prior to quarterly Local Trust Committee meetings, we send a short update to our **elected officials** - Islands Trust Trustees and CVRD Director - on the state of Hornby's water, helping both to keep them up-to-date, and also to ensure that connections are made when they come across water-related opportunities that we should know about.

Signage can be an important element of awareness, and hopefully triggering personal action. The big drought level sign at the entrance to the Gas Bar serves as a just-in-time



reminder to people to rein in water-use practices.

The Community School engaged with us in the inclusion of **students** to

learn about and actually create a beautiful rain garden next to the parking area.

They got to plant lots of native plants, and can see the ongoing rainwater management functionality through both wet and dry periods of the year.

Quality: Our pilot project to offer an on-island water testing service for **bacterial contamination** ran for eighteen months from June of 2024 until the end of 2025, resulting in 227 clients for 281 tests. Of these, 59% showed the presence of Total Coliform, and 10% for potentially harmful *E. coli*. Drinking guidelines indicate that there should be none.



Considering all financials involved (\$45 fee per test offset by expenses to cover wages, supplies, rent, insurance, etc.), there was a rough gap of about \$12 per test. We are exploring ways to reduce the expense side (e.g. automation of client letters), and we applied for a provincial Community Gaming *operational* grant to close the gap without having to necessarily increase the cost to clients (spoiler alert: we got it).

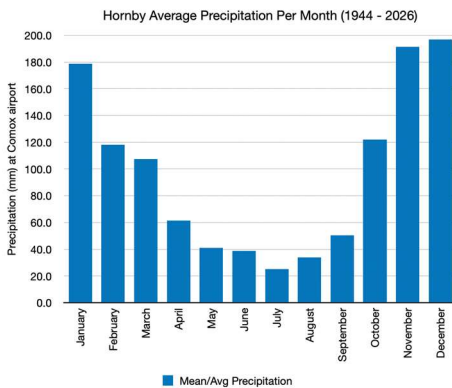
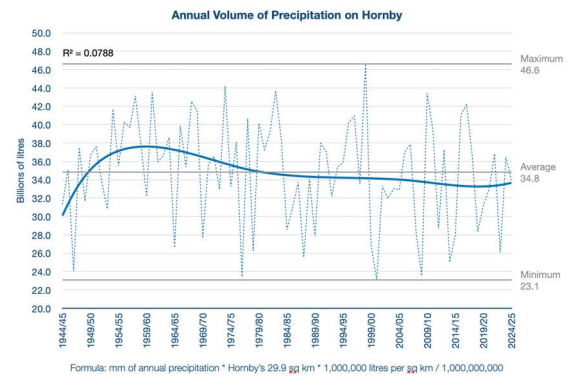
On the demand side, we met with the short-term rental association to suggest the use of our testing service should the Islands Trust Committee require water quality tests as part of their granting of permits. This increase would help to spread the costs over a larger base.

At the end of the year, we began developing a new testing service for **seawater intrusion**, hoping to offer it in 2026.



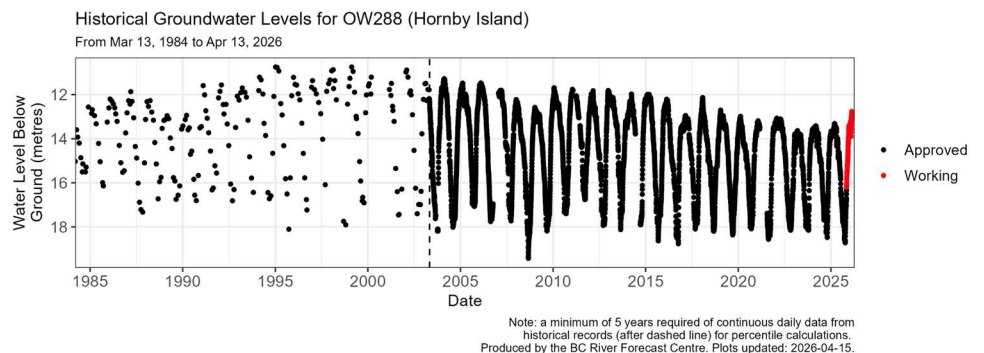
Quantity: The average volume of rainfall in a year on Hornby is about **1,200 millimetres**, which equates to an astounding 35 billion litres if you could swim in it all at once.

However, much of it occurs in a handful of months. At some point we expect to participate in a project to determine our “freshwater footprint.” This will pinpoint better where it’s all going, such as evaporation and consumption, and how much infiltrates to the groundwater level.



Our own mini-water budget estimates that groundwater recharge is somewhere from 5% to 20% of the total, and the run-off (surface to ocean) plus evapotranspiration is from 70% to 85%. Depending on the year, and possible drought conditions, people who rely on water from their deep well may report it going dry. Yet, their neighbour will say that their pond is as high in August as it’s ever been. Experts tell us that the **hydrogeology** of the Gulf Islands is very complex, and you need to appreciate the intricate network of fractures under your feet to

understand why there can be such differences. In any event, a combination of easing up on water consumption plus storage for dry periods makes good sense. As the chart below, “Historical Groundwater Levels,” indicates, the **groundwater level** on



Hornby, as measured at the provincial observation well at the corner of Central and Sandpiper, has been dropping over the decades. We started measuring a couple of dozen deep wells around the island to get more data points.

We continue to highlight the benefits of *slowing water down* to help with groundwater recharge - the supply side - and we've identified ways and means of accomplishing that, such as the creation of rain gardens, and bioswales (vegetated ditches), and beaver dam analogues (BDAs), and protection and restoration of wetlands.



During the year, we completed two exciting and beautiful rain gardens, one at the corner of Sandpiper and Porpoise, and another at the Community School (see photo of kids above). We also had a visit from a member of the BC Wildlife Federation's *Watershed Team* to explore a BDA at the top end of Beulah Creek. Hopefully we will be able to measure before and after impacts.

There are many opportunities to explore slowing water down on private land, not just public lands. With large acreages, residents have wetlands that may have been ditched over the years, which can create problems for neighbours, and we've begun exploring ways to engage people in preservation or restoration of the wetlands. Also, we're digging into ways to help with building rain gardens in yards where people may not have the expertise or physical strength to do it themselves. Not just functional in helping groundwater, they're pretty, too.

Capacity:

Being a non-taxpayer supported Committee, we have relied on *earned income* from our water testing service, plus in-kind income from the kindness of friends, who volunteer much time and energy to projects. For special projects, however, we received grants from the HICEEC, and the Hornby Community Fund.

In a nutshell, for 2025:

Category	Amount	Particulars
Revenue - operating	\$5,539	Water testing
Less Allocation to HIRRA	\$1,113	Core services admin support
Less Expenses - operating	\$7,669	Wages, equip, insurance, supplies, publicity, membership, rent
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$3,243)	
Revenue - project grants	\$3,500	HICEEC, Community Fund
Expense - projects	\$4,677	Plants, mulch, soil, rocks, gravel, equipment, ferries
Projects Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$1,177)	
Fund Balance - start of year	\$10,474	
Fund Balance - end of year	\$6,054	Offset deficit

Hornby Village Centre Committee Annual Report to HIRRA

Membership: Bill Havens, Jo Harrison, Dean McKay, Michael McNamara, Paul Ackerson, Butch Leslie, Jim Garton

Introduction: The Hornby Village Centre working group was formed over three years ago by a group of islanders who were concerned about the rapid changes occurring at the *de facto* village centre at the four corners without adequate community planning. We then became an *ad hoc* committee of HIRRA last year.

We now seek to enlist the community in a public discussion of what the village centre should be. What attributes should the village include: public spaces, gardens, bicycle lanes, public art, road safety improvements, access to public transit, seniors' housing, parking *et cetera*.

Plan: Our vision involves long-term planning for the village centre. Our more immediate goal is to seek community involvement in redeveloping the four corners intersection as a safe active transportation intersection with support from a BC Active Transportation Planning (BCATP) grant.

Our approach has been twofold: 1) building relationships with the significant parties (stakeholders) in the four corners area, and 2) engaging in public conversation with islanders about what the village centre should become.

Progress : We have established working relationships with the Co-op, HIHS, Water Stewardship, Baird & Co., the Trails Committee, CVRD and MOTI.

The purchase of the final corner property by the Co-op has opened a significant opportunity for the village centre. We will liaise with the Co-op Board to assist in planning for the eventual community use of the property.

We are collaborating with HIHS to include affordable housing in the village centre vision. We are talking with both the Trails Committee and Water Stewardship about partnering in the forthcoming BC Active Transportation grant application.

We have established a good working relationship with David LeRue at MOTI to assist us in developing the BCATP grant. And we have a commitment from CVRD via Director Daniel Arbour to include funding in the next five-year budget for both the Trails Committee and the village centre projects.

Next Steps: The main focus moving forward for the HVC is public engagement. How do we enlist the community in defining the village centre? What attributes and amenities does the community want in the village centre? And how can we compile this information into a viable design with which to seek government funding?

Already we have presented two talks at the Hornby Literary Lunch (Michael and Bill) eliciting ideas. In this year, we propose to further engage the community via public sessions, surveys, First Edition articles and a public workshop (charette). We will then move forward on the community's behalf with the BCATP grant application.

Hornby Island Regional Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Report 2025

Over the last four years much work has been done on our Trail System, making the trails safer and more sustainable. We are fortunate to work closely with the CVRD and Daniel May, Senior Parks Technician. The care and attention given to our Trails is much appreciated.

This year Sasha LeBaron was hired to create equestrian walk and ride-arounds on Coltsfoot and Beulah. The second bridge on Coltsfoot at Beulah Junction was removed for equestrian access. He also did excellent repairs on Coltsfoot heading toward Northwind, allowing safety vehicle access and eliminating some very wet areas and improving drainage in the area. HIMBA created a very successful extension to Freefall, which has been well received. They also did work on Purgatory and Double Cross trails.

Recently the water bars on Northwind have been cleaned and brushing the sides of both Coltsfoot and Northwind has been done for the safety and access of Fire and Rescue trucks. Further cutting back of the many blowdowns from last year also contributes to safety and access.

The Lea Smith Stairs have been repaired. Box culverts have been removed on Walton.

The encampment off French Connection was removed. The Syzygy section of Roadside Trail has been granted a Statutory Right of Way, meaning the CVRD will maintain and manage that section of the trail and it becomes part of the trail system.

Hidden Beach access has been improved for easier access. A Cultural Assessment of Grassy Point has been done by the K'omoks First Nation. Hunter Jarred also conducted a Floristic study of Grassy Point. The results will be available soon.

A Trail Survey was done by our Committee. It created much interest, and movement toward new trails is being discussed.

Bollards at trail heads have been repaired and made consistent in terms of keys.

This year an Equestrian Group has been formed. There are about fifteen members and an equal number of horses. Please be aware you may meet a horse on the multi-use trails and give them a wide berth.

Upcoming in 2026, HIMBA is working hard on Yer Mom, creating new features, repairing damage from the 2024 windstorm, and addressing drainage issues.

Possible root armoring on Jessie's Trail and general maintenance will be done.

Fall Fair Annual Report for May 2026 AGM
2025 Theme: DIRT

The love and connection of this community is what makes the Fall Fair such a success and 2025 was no exception.

The incredible army of volunteers' hard work and smiles are the heart of this event.

The weather tried to dampen our spirits with a little early drizzle, but collective enthusiasm chased it all away and gave us a beautiful, sunny afternoon.

The exuberant arrival of young and old in the parade always sets the tone and many other talented performers lent their voices and energy to make it a lively day.

The Welcome ceremony was a touching moment, with participants sharing their connection to Hornby's history across ages and backgrounds.

Competition winners were rewarded for all their dedication and hard work and the dahlia growers battled it out for top prize. There were a record 250 entries!

The young zucchini racers brought much fun and laughter to the event.

Rides and a petting zoo provided joy to the kids young and old.

The community garden seed-savers, one earth-builder and many potters sharing their skills in the demo area were a great hit.

Market vendors, non-profits, and food providers contributed greatly to the event's success and generous donations of the Harvest Baskets were much appreciated by their recipients.

Thanks to community generosity last year the Fall Fair was able to purchase a new stage tent and a cargo trailer to store and transport all our equipment.

Here's to another fantastic Fall Fair in 2026!

The date will be September 13th and the theme is... **The Wheelbarrow.**

Cemetery Stewards 2025 Annual Report

Committee Members for 2026: Iain Palmer, Gloria Herbert, Jazzmire Corrigan, Barb Inglis, Kathleen O'Brien, Larry Smith, Tina Wai

Gloria Herbert, our bookkeeper and treasurer has indicated her desire to retire from the Committee this year but has agreed to continue as our records keeper until a permanent replacement can be found. We are very grateful for all Gloria's contributions to the Committee over the years.

In April, Gemma Colin retired from the Committee after 25 years of leadership, with Iain volunteering to replace her as spokesperson. We are all thankful for Gemma's dedication and commitment to the Cemetery and will miss her support. We will do our best to carry on.

Statistics:

In the past year, Jan 1- Dec 31 2025, the cemetery had one full body interment.

# of Unoccupied Full Body Gravesites	38
# of Occupied Full Body Gravesites	73
# of Unoccupied Cremation Sites	49
# of Occupied Cremation Sites	62

The Committee wishes to express our thanks to Mike Works Landscaping for his continued maintenance of the Cemetery, the consistency of the mowing and clearing of storm debris is invaluable in making the Cemetery an attractive and comforting place for families and visitors alike. Thank you, Michael.

To avoid the potential of dead and leaning trees falling onto the rows of cremated remains, the Committee took a proactive decision to engage Hamilton Tree Service to remove five alders before the winter storms arrived. The costs of \$1,312.50 were borne by the Committee from our budget. We wish to thank Dan Hamilton and his crew for their prompt response to our request and their fine work in protecting the cremation sites from any damage.

For the rest of this year, we will continue with our efforts to clear the salal and underbrush from the planned Row C of cremation sites and to follow up with ensuring that every gravesite has a permanent marker or headstone as required. We are grateful to the families who have taken steps to install headstones or markers to acknowledge their loved ones and for their commitment to maintain their gravesites. A reminder too that the Committee discourages the placement of any plastic mementoes or suchlike as they rapidly deteriorate and are detrimental to the environment. For those gravesites where no family maintenance is happening, Barb has offered to take on the weeding care of the graves with help from the rest of the Committee when needed. All the full body gravesites are now identified with polymer numbered markers that are durable and easy to read and do not interfere with mowing maintenance.

Finally, the Committee is hoping to engage the community in an annual Cemetery clean up at some point in the year. An announcement will be forthcoming once a date for this has been set.

Boat Ramp Advisory Committee Annual Report for 2026 AGM

This past year became the landmark year in terms of the Hornby Boat Ramp Project. Members of the Committee were actively involved in monitoring and providing feedback on the plans and progress of the project once it got underway. The project timeline was extended beyond what was originally anticipated as the unannounced deconstruction of the old ramp occurred well before reconstruction started. This resulted in numerous folks getting caught in the water and having to use the Bill Mee ramp on Denman Island to retrieve or launch boats.

New construction took longer than anticipated due to tide considerations and other delays. Once the ramp was “completed” it was quickly determined that what appeared to be a very functional and practical design had issues. The most serious being the ability to back trailers down the ramp from the south.

An onsite meeting was held at the ramp earlier in March 2026 with CVRD representatives to discuss options to improve this situation. Following this the CVRD has prepared remediation plans and these appear to be well on the way to resolving the problems. The adjustments are expected to start in late May of this year. Fortunately, there are monies available from the Community Quilt Fund raised several years ago that should be able to cover most if not all of the additional costs.

It is unfortunate that delays and adjustments have had to be made, but once completed, the new ramp will prove to be a very positive addition to Hornby Island’s infrastructure.

The Committee would like to express our appreciation to staff of CVRD, especially Daniel May, who have moved this project along. Also, the support and leadership of Director Daniel Arbour has made this project a reality. I would also like to thank members of this Committee for their input and feedback as this project has progressed.

Mike Pedneault