



Saltair District Residents Association (SDRA)

www.sunnysaltair.ca

September 2023

BE FIRE-SMART!

We've all smelled the smoke. Early risers have seen that horrible red sunrise. We've seen the devastating pictures. Maybe you have family or friends who have been affected. LET'S ALL BE FIRE-SMART. If you have visitors from places that are not under this kind of threat, please educate them on what NOT to do – for example throw cigarette (or other) butts away on roadways or walking trails!! (And yes, folks are still doing this). If you are travelling in the province, use all the resources at our disposal to plan and prepare. Examples of the many resources and sources of info:

- Check out www.firesmartbc.ca.
- The official BC Wildfire Service mobile app is available for free download in the [App Store](#) and on [Google Play](#).
- Additional information is provided in the [BCWS Mobile App Reference Guide \(PDF, 1MB\)](#).
- General info on prevention, preparedness, current wildfire status, news, bans and restrictions and a WHOLE lot more are available on: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Held on April 27 at the Saltair Community Centre on Oyster School Road, we had 34 attendees for the proceedings. The agenda included several presentations, the highlights being the handmade gavel and strike plate and the Community Service Award to the Evans for their extraordinary work on the Halloween and Easter celebrations. We announced the re-introduction of the SDRA High School Bursary Awards. The full set of minutes is attached.

SDRA Student Bursaries Awarded:



Saltair Residents Association (\$250) Bursary was awarded to Chemainus Secondary School student Justin Crossen and the same amount was awarded to Ladysmith Secondary School student Cameron Lowe.

Donations were received from: Keith & Victoria Parkinson, Jan & Kerry McIntyre, Diana & Steve Holland, Jane Walton, Jane Avis, John & Ann Silins, Dorothy Sedola, and Sue Miller. We will be fundraising for this very worthy cause throughout the next school year.

JOIN US! Everyone Welcome – First in our series of COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

POST TO YOUR CALENDAR: September 24, 7 p.m. – SCC : Jesse McClinton & Rob Douglas (CVRD Mayor)

To increase flow of information and give everyone a chance to hear news and ask questions, the SDRA will be hosting a roughly bi-monthly Community Conversations event in the Saltair Community Centre (SCC). Our area director (Jesse McClinton) will regularly provide an update on local issues, and potentially bring along a guest speakers such as other CVRD directors. Attendees will have an opportunity to provide input and ask questions. This series is targeted to provide an increased level of communication and interaction between the area residents and their director. Everyone can participate (including asking probing and critical questions as appropriate) but also ask everyone to maintain decorum and courtesy. **POSTERS** – will be up beside local mail boxes just after the holiday weekend. If you'd like to share the news with friends and neighbours in the area, **please copy the attached poster (at the end of this newsletter) and email out to as many folks as you can.**

Message from the SDRA President: Would You Help Us?

As stated in our Constitution: the Saltair District Residents Association exists

- a) To support community planning for the benefit of the people of Saltair and district;
- b) To protect the rural qualities and character of the area;
- c) To protect the natural environment of the area;
- d) To provide a community forum where residents and ratepayers can voice their opinions and concerns;
- e) To encourage participation in community initiatives including, but not limited to: roads, public safety, water & sewer, green space and cultural & recreational opportunities;
- f) To liaise with properly constituted (elected and appointed) bodies which make decisions about the district;
- g) To review and make representation respecting taxation and To obtain, manage and administer finances to support the activities of the Association.



The SDRA also assists in the organizing of key social events such as the Halloween party and Easter Egg hunt events. We raise money each year for bursaries for students from Ladysmith and Chemainus High Schools. And we endeavour to provide communication about issues impacting our area and the environment, and leadership in other efforts, to maintain and enhance our community. Right now, we are especially focused on concerns regarding the CVRD Landslide Hazard bylaw, water resources and the Stocking Lake reservoir, and runoff water management.

The SDRA Board needs people who love living in Saltair and want to see it both prosper and retain its special attributes. We are concerned that the small number of directors currently serving is unable to address these issues adequately. We need stronger community engagement so we can effectively address the concerns that matter to our residents.

If you have an interest in any of the things we're working on (or have ideas for new ones) and would be prepared to become involved with the Board of the SDRA, as a committee member or occasional resource, please be in contact with myself, Kerry McIntyre. You can text or telephone me at 250-701-1065 or email me at mcintyrekerry01@gmail.com. The work can be challenging but also incredibly rewarding.

Request for Proposals: Community Housing Fund

(From the Union of BC Municipalities newsletter 23-8-30)

The Province of BC has opened a request for proposals for the Community Housing Fund to support the development of approximately 3,500 units of mixed-income, affordable rental housing for independent families, seniors and individuals. Project aims may include addressing the needs of women and women with children who have experienced or are at risk of violence; individuals leaving transitional or supportive housing; youth, including those transitioning out of care; and equity and/or rights-seeking community members. Interested parties including local government housing providers may make submissions via the BC Housing [webpage](#) up until November 17, 2023

The Province of British Columbia created the Community Housing Fund (CHF) in 2018. This fund is a \$3.3-billion investment to build more than 20,000 affordable rental homes for people with moderate and low incomes by 2031-32. Approximately 9,000 of these homes are open or underway across the province. The CHF has received funds for an extra 6,000 new homes for families and seniors. Over the next four years, the plan is to issue more CHF proposal calls and allocate the remaining units. <https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/CHF-RFP-Fact-Sheet.pdf> Information on how to apply can be found at: <https://www.bchousing.org/projects-partners/funding-opportunities/CHF> One of the really interesting statements of eligibility: The primary applicant must be a non-profit society, housing co-op, municipal housing provider legally incorporated in Canada or First Nation.

.....So, if Saltair had an official housing co-op or if the SDRA were incorporated, (or something else) we could apply to obtain funding for senior –friendly housing in Saltair? Interesting thought..... Maybe 2024?

B.C.'s First-ever Coastal Marine Strategy

Tuesday, August 15, 2023 - <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023WLR0052-001294>

A summary of more than 900 submissions received from individuals, environmental non-governmental organizations, local and regional governments, industry associations and businesses across British Columbia is now available in the Coastal Marine Strategy's What We Heard report. This report summarizes key themes captured during the public engagement and will help inform the Coastal Marine Strategy.

The Coastal Marine Strategy will concentrate on activities, uses and values that the Province of British Columbia is accountable for in the coastal marine environment, while recognizing the need for strong collaboration and co-operation with First Nations and other governments that share responsibility. The strategic initiatives proposed in the Coastal Marine Strategy will expand on existing programs, present new concepts and identify shared values that will guide provincial actions over the next 20 years.



Once complete, the Coastal Marine Strategy will be strengthened through alignment and co-ordination with B.C.'s Wild Salmon Strategy and the Watershed Security Strategy, which is in development. Combined, these strategies can deliver a greater impact to healthier marine and freshwater environments, which will better support a stronger British Columbia and more resilient communities.

Quick Facts:

- B.C.'s ocean-based economy generates approximately 8% of its gross domestic product, supporting 300 coastal communities and full-time work for more than 131,000 British Columbians.
- British Columbia is one of the few maritime jurisdictions in North America without a comprehensive coastal marine strategy.
- First Nations have historic knowledge and experience in coastal marine management that will help inform long-term stewardship of B.C.'s diverse and unique marine ecosystems and habitats.
- The Province of British Columbia holds considerable responsibility for the marine and coastal area.
- If managed well, all coastal communities and the entire province will benefit.

Learn More:

The Coastal Marine Strategy's What We Heard report: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/coastal-marine-strategy/>

The Intentions Paper of B.C.'s Coastal Marine

Strategy: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2022/12/Coastal-Marine-Strategy-Intentions-Paper.pdf>

**Saltair District Residents Association (SDRA)
Annual General Meeting (AGM) – April 27, 2023
For the Society's Year 2023/2024**

Location: Saltair Community Centre, South Oyster School Road, Saltair
Attendees: SDRA Board, SDRA Members & Associate Members
34 people in total

Members:

- ✓ Status was verified/renewed at the door; members & associate members welcome
- ✓ No new Members attended

Members Business Meeting

Chaired by: Kerry McIntyre, SDRA President

1. AGM call to order: 7:00 pm. Thirty-four members were in attendance.
2. Motion to adopt agenda as presented – moved by Janet Evans, seconded by John Silins – all in favour by show of hands
3. Motion to adopt Minutes of 2022 AGM – moved by John Silins, seconded by Diana Holland – all in favour by show of hands
4. Summary of Activities:
Kerry read out a summary of the activities of the Board, noting one of the most significant was the hosting of the All Candidates Meeting in September for those running for the position of Area G Director of the CVRD. A lot of behind the scenes work was involved in the organization of the event, but we had an excellent turnout from the community and the format was received very positively by candidates and community members alike.

The Board also initiated a community wide Yard Sale in June. Registered sales were held by 33 houses on some 18 different streets in the community, along with a number of other spontaneously joining in. All reports was that the event, one of the first post-Covid events, was successful above all in bringing neighbours together, regardless of actual sales.

The Board continues to try to communicate to the community and membership via the Newsletter, and commends Sue Millar for her diligence in producing it. The Board continues to run the Sunny Saltair website, and again offers thanks to Jackie Rieck for maintaining it so well.

Educationally, the Board hosted a Fire Smart community event in June last year, which was very useful and helpful in its information. Thank you to John Silins for organizing the speakers.

The Board has undertaken a number of lobbying efforts with the CVRD re maintenance matters related to the paths in Princess Diana Park as well as working to get installation of a to a port-a-potty toilet at the North Watts end of the Trans Canada trail. The Board continues to monitor the action around the slope stabilization issue and proposed bylaws related to that matter.

A major effort on the part of the Board this year has been bridge building – again, something not necessarily seen publicly but are very important in terms of strengthening and uniting our community. Joint meetings were held between the SDRA board and the board of the Saltair Community Centre to identify common areas of endeavour. The Board met with our new Area G director, Jesse McClinton and hope to have ongoing regular connections to address shared areas of concern.

The survey to the community was also a bridge building exercise, not just in terms of inviting broad community engagement in identifying key areas of endeavor for the board in the future, but hopefully in encouraging a real shared engagement in concern for and commitment to what is without question one of the most wonderful communities that anyone could hope to call home.

5. Financial Report

Denay Shelling provided a verbal report of the finances, noting Current Balance (as of April 26): \$2,852.09.

Bursary Fund: as of this date: \$350.00 donations by Kerry McIntyre, Sue Miller, Dorothy Sedola, Jane Walton, John and Ann Silins, Dianna Holland. Bursary Fund at end of AGM : \$385.00)

6. Presentations:

David Thomas, a former resident of Saltair and former member of the Board of the SDRA, now living in Nanaimo, presented the President with a wooden gavel and plate, made of local woods, in honour of all those who have served the SDRA over the years.

The SDRA Community Service Award was presented to Janet and Tim Evans representing all the volunteers who have helped with the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween celebrations over the years. These events are attended by hundreds every year – children from Chemainus, Ladysmith, Saltair and some from far beyond. People who were children in the early years are bringing their own children to recent festivities.

Janet and Tim moved to Saltair in 1995 and almost immediately took over organizing the donors, volunteers and promotion of both events, previously run by Bill and Dawna Potts who found it hard to manage as they got older. So for almost 30 years they, their family, and devoted donors have entertained and fed the participants.

Tim and Janet acknowledged that they couldn't have done it without massive support from the community: David and Cindy Key (Dollar Stores) donate prizes and gifts; 49th Parallel donates some of the food. Monetary support comes from many local businesses – e.g. Chris (Ammeter Electric), Starla (Marine Services), Dave and Wendy Irving (Remax), Lauren (Ma Maison), Sue Roe (EXP Realty), Amanda Redpath, the SDRA recently and so many more for insurance, shelter, extra food and activities. Volunteers from the Evans family and long-time friends are key to the success. And no one who attends could forget Judy Latimer who provides music and entertainment for all – this year's Easter Bunny was a highlight of the day.

Such dedication, energy, and service are essential for community well-being and the SDRA is very pleased to recognize Tim and Janet as both the organizers and representatives of all their supporters.

Kerry announced the Saltair Community High School Bursary program that the SDRA is undertaking to provide two bursaries to graduating students from Saltair, one attending Chemainus High School and one attending Ladysmith High School. It was announced that the Saltair Community Centre will also be presenting two bursaries of \$500 each. Total to date received for the SDRA bursaries is \$350; additional donations were invited from attendees.

Kerry provided a verbal review of results from the recent community survey. The report is attached below.

7. Matters for consideration:

The fee structure for membership in the SDRA was reviewed, noting the inequity of singles being charged \$15 while couples could join for \$20, or ten dollars per person. John Silins moved and Denay Shelling seconded that the membership fee be \$10 per person – all in favour by show of hands.

The next Neighbourhood Yard Sale was announced for June 17th.

The current Board was introduced, noting that Denay Shelling, Jane Walton and Kerry McIntyre have one more year to serve. It was moved by Diana Holland and seconded by Janet Evans that John Silins be re-elected to the Board for a two year term. There were no other nominations or volunteers from the floor to replace the positions being vacated by Diana Holland and Sue Millar. It was moved by Betty Pierson and seconded by Janet Evans that the Board be given power to issue to recruit and appoint at least two additional board members – all in favour by show of hands.

8. Climate Crisis and Net Zero Emissions Deceptions seminar

John Silins introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Geoff Strong, a climatologist who presented an extremely details and challenging review of the climate change crisis and issues around reaching net zero emissions.

9. Diana Holland introduced the CVRD Area G Director, Jesse McClinton who provided an update on various issues from the CVRD, including answers to a number of questions the SDRA had suggested to him. Some of the highlights...

Jesse noted that the CVRD had received \$6,000,000 of the Growing Communities Fund being distributed across BC for infrastructure priorities, which was solely earmarked for the regional areas of the CVRD, as separate grants were provided to the municipalities of Duncan, Ladysmith and North Cowichan. No decisions have been yet made regarding how those dollars will be utilized.

The Director noted that the APC has been appointed and has had their first meeting, and that the issues around zoning will be considered in future meetings.

He also noted that along with the upgrades to the Stocking Creek reservoir, several new wells have been dug and will be coming on line as part of the water system.

10. A short time of questions and answers followed.

11. Adjournment was at 9 pm on motions by John Silins.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FIRST

Community Conversations



***Reporting from,
Questions to, &
Interaction with***



Jesse McClinton
CVRD Director
for Area G

and

Rob Douglas
Mayor of
North Cowichan

Sunday, September 24th, 2 to 4 pm

**Saltair Community Centre
South Oyster School Road**

Hosted by the Saltair District Residents Association