

## **Notes by RBD made during meeting - to just confirm**

### **Discussion with CF - February 11, 2011**

1. Who do we work for? If we decide to build something (and if necessary get Prov. approval)

**Trails can be built anywhere without CF or DoS approval but Prov., approval needed as usual. Otherwise this question sort of met with a blank. Trust we will stay in touch and so anything of any size would be known or discussed**

- a. Do we clear work with CF or DoS or anyone? Or should we bother at all?
- b. What person takes the responsibility for giving the OK?
- c. What form does approval take? Can we just give notice of intent (and Prov. position) and proceed or do we need confirmation back? If the latter what form and what process. Any other criteria?
- d. Do these rules apply to just within the HG or in the SHF too or outside of both for the work the CF wants to the northeast.

**Michael should take chain saw course to comply with some SF rules and Kevin to advise if/how course available.**

2. Insurance issue -

- a. Currently have been working on basis of:
  - i. SHF - SHCA agreement with DoS (must find or get from them) that dates back to when they got control from Province and we to work under Parks approval (given very broad powers as in small parks in Sandy Hook too)
  - ii. HG - relying on SHCA and Society Act provisions plus homeowners plus care in not building overly dangerous parts and addressing safety issues soonest.
  - iii. Outside of both - no thoughts at this point but in retrospect we have worked in areas outside of HG near power lines, etc. already.
- b. Not practical for current SHCA to buy liability insurance and under current setup they are the only ones who could buy a policy in SHCA name. It is much less costly (maybe free with a good broking job) or less difficult to add on the activities of volunteer trail builders by endorsement to any existing policies. (also include the society involved - SHCA or whoever)
  - i. CF policy - some doubt regarding SHF
  - ii. DoS - do they want HG and outside especially if outside includes areas outside DoS.
  - iii. Best to go on both.

**Kevin agreed to speak to both DoS and CF persons to clarify and see that Committee is added as additional insureds or advise accordingly soonest. Noted later that such extension may have to apply to new society in place of SHCA Committee.**

3. Hidden Grove areas jobs/projects involving CF:

- a. Trails outside of HG to someplace
  - i. Maps to show route - preferred loop

**- Brian to develop and advise but maybe after survey with Michael along. Signage and map requirement will be advised too.**

**- would like handicap trail component in outside educational loop if at all possible and if that is led to by the HG handicap trail then funds would flow to both.**

**- Brian to research Section 56 vs. 57 situation but advised that at this time might seriously affect CF ability to help HG.**

**HG things (some just advising but some need discussion or effort by CF or DoS) including: probable new society, extended parking (Kevin felt he could get some material), main entrance trail (Michael to do plan of some sort and get to Kevin to get going on this), handicap trail assistance - will see, benches**

Just for good order - sort of - please find attached a rough out of notes from our meeting on the 12th.

In addition please note for the record that "we" are forming a separate society and the name "Sechelt Groves Society" has been approved. Constitution and bylaws in process to submit to Victoria. SHCA advised and they are on side and understand need for charitable status. So please read the attached notes with this in mind.

Am holding off further approaches for funds including Rotary approach until at least the new society is approved and maybe until Fed. charitable status approved.

Bob D'Arcy Chair, Hidden Groves Steering Committee

**To anyone interested in our Heritage Forests:**

The efforts to work on Sechelt Heritage Forest and Hidden Grove have been spun off (Very amiably) from the Sandy Hook Community Association and a new Society has been formed - **SECHELT GROVES SOCIETY**. [See the new website](#)

The new Society will be proceeding with all the projects of the prior Committee including targeting for the **handicap trail** in 2011. Needless to say, all the projects take money and we are embarking on several initiatives to raise it. Aside from grant applications **YOU** can help:

**Become a Member** - we have several levels of membership and it is easy to complete a form and pay online by credit card. Just go to <http://secheltgroves.com/join.html>

**Donate** - again, easy to do on line at <http://secheltgroves.com/donate.html>

We have applied to Revenue Canada for status to issue tax deduction receipts and we will keep you posted on this. There will not be a tax receipt for an ordinary annual membership in any event - just a membership card so, to repeat, **Join Now**

Before we can apply to Revenue Canada we need to have a General meeting. You will receive an email of notice and it will be posted on the website. Everyone will be welcome but only those who are members at least 10 days prior to the meeting may vote on anything (Bylaws!).

If you would prefer to print out a membership form and send it in see below.  
We encourage you to print out some and give to your friends too.

**DON'T FORGET - STAY POSTED AT <http://secheltgroves.com/>**

|   |  |                           |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Sechelt Groves Society</b>   |  |                           |
| Membership Form   |  |                           |
| Send To: SGS c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4  |  |                           |
| <i>Please print clearly—it must be accurate for the tax receipt</i>   |  |                           |
| Name: _____   |  |                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Company <input type="checkbox"/> Association   Other _____     |  |                           |
| Address: _____  |  | Postal Code: _____        |
| Home Phone: _____   |  | Office Phone: _____       |
|   |  | Other Phone: _____        |
| Email (Confidentiality Assured) _____   |  | Website: _____            |
| I or my family members visit the Groves _____ times per year on average?  |  |                           |
| Type of membership for which <b>I am enclosing payment:</b>   |  |                           |
| ____ LIFETIME—\$1000.00   ____ Friend—\$50.00   ____ Sponsor—\$100.00   ____ Just Annual—\$10.00<br>(no tax receipt issued) |  |                           |
| Date: _____ / _____   |  | Signature _____           |
| Office Use: Entered in Ledger _____   |  | Tax Receipt Issued: _____ |
|   |  | Initial _____             |

## Robert D'Arcy

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From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>  
Sent: March-04-11 2:16 PM  
To: Michael Davidson (pacidavi@gmail.com)  
Subject: Groves News

A few small bits just to keep you posted.

1. Today my cheque at the BC Government was cashed - this is a good sign and usually means the application is approved. We will see.
2. Take your time but please review the new site at <http://secheltgroves.com/> It still needs work but it is nearly there.
3. I have also worked to revise the current hiddengrove site but do not want to post anything revised until the secheltgroves one launches. The hiddegrove one will still have a home page for announcements particular to it, the work page just 2011 grove pictures, no documents, and, of course, a new heading at the top.
4. I am working on the Federal app but it cannot be done until the Provincial stuff is here and we have a General Meeting.
5. I need you to think who all should come to such a General meeting (and it will cost them \$10 since they have to be members to participate). It needs to formally inaugurate the Society and elect a board, agree on banking and fiscal year stuff.

My list so far is:

Me  
Michael  
Gertrude,  
two from SHCA (get Kirk to advise but suggest Rupert and Gray)  
the work party members:

- **Ray Fitch**
- **Ken Hall**
- **Louis Janke**
- **Peter Jordi**
- **Jerry Kinmont**
- **Mike Lane**
- **Norm Towle**
- **Brian Smart**
- **Danielle Stephens**
- **Mike Sutcliffe**
- **Damien Wallbank**
- **Gray Waddell**
- **Rupert Clark**

Linda Williams  
Lynne Forest  
Karen Carlye  
Bula Hess  
Heather Waddell  
Tela Sametz  
Jack and Marilyn  
Marilyn Jares  
John Bebbington - now living in SH by the way  
Norm and Julie Towle

Dick and Jean Billingsley

and on and on for Sandy Hook ( I have a 140 entry email list) but what I really would like is names outside of SH:

Elise Rutland

Jason Herz

Michael Siddall

Fern Walker

Linda Williams

but I am really short of naming others who would have an interest in the woods.

and a poster on the bulletin boards.

Venue will be a trick but maybe we will get a handle on how many are coming and can impose on the DoS for a space or ask to use the SCPI board room.

Then we have to think who will form the board and so far here is my thinking:

President - me

Vice President - Michael Davidson.

Secretary/Treasurer - Gertrude Pacific. Now I know this looks like a big take on BUT I have set up software to do most everything very smooth - except take minutes ( and meeting will be rare I expect and I can record them if worse comes to worse). So, I could do the work but Gertrude sign off on it. On the other hand if there is someone who can do one of the two jobs then we grab them.

Directors:

Two from SHCA

Mike Sutcliffe

Marilyn Jares

and one more does it.

The actual officers are not elected until after the General meeting that selects the directors and then the directors do the officers among themselves.

There! That gives you something to do<grin> but I really do need input - can't do it alone.

Cheers,

Bob



# Sechelt Groves Society

c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4

Email: [secheltgroves@eastlink.ca](mailto:secheltgroves@eastlink.ca)

Web Site: <http://hiddengrove.net>

Phone: 604-885-5766

## BY EMAIL as PDF

Date: April 5, 2011

Sandy Hook Community Association

Attn: Kirk Exner, President

Re: Sechelt Groves Society Funds

Dear Kirk,

Thank you very much for the nice phone call advising the SHCA has allocated \$750 to the Society as start-up working capital for our first 2 years. This money will certainly assist us in our transition.

You asked that I outline the director setup in our bylaws. Very simply put they state that the Society will reserve two spots on the board for SHCA board members and the Society will consult with the President of the SGCA before choosing them. In essence this means that the Society could reject a suggestion by the President but I think there is little likelihood of that. We just don't know who will be running the Association 5 years from now and maybe some of the board members will not be desirable then.

The full wording applicable reads Part 26 (4):

The directors shall prepare at least 30 days prior to the annual general meeting, a slate of nominees for the positions of all directors and shall include the slate in the annual general meeting announcement. Included in any slate prepared shall be no fewer than two nominees from the Board of the Sandy Hook Community Association who have been selected by the current directors in consultation with the president of the Sandy Hook Community Association and who have confirmed their willingness to serve as directors of the society. Should one or more of the Sandy Hook Community Association board members selected decline to serve then replacement director nominees may be chosen from the society membership.

I hope this clarifies things for you and again thank you and thanks to the Board of the Association.

Sechelt Groves Society

*Per: R. B. D'Arcy* (Computer Signature)

Bob D'Arcy  
Pro tem President

**Support the Society - Become a Member - Donate - All Online**



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c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4

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I hope this clarifies things for you and again thank you and thanks to the Board of the Association.

Sechelt Groves Society

*Per: R. B. D'Arcy* (Computer Signature)

Bob D'Arcy  
Pro tem President

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BC Rehab  
4255 Laurel Street  
Vancouver BC  
Canada V5Z 2G9  
Phone (604) 737-6383  
Fax (604) 737-6494  
www.bc rehab.com

**Board of Directors:**

**Chairperson:**

Mr. Paul Richard

**Vice Chairperson:**

Mr. Ian W. Muirhead

**Directors:**

Ms. Kathy Scalzo

Mrs. Elspeth Fraser

Mr. Bruce Hay

Dr. George Price

Mr. Walt Lawrence

Mr. Al Wagner

Mr. David Doig

Wednesday, April 06, 2011

Attention: Bob D'Arcy, Chairperson

Hidden Groves Legacy Committee  
5866 Deerhorn Drive  
Sechelt, BC  
V0N 3A4

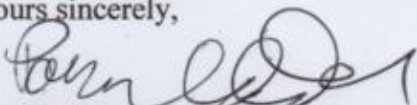
Subject: Approved Project Grant application

BC Rehab is pleased to commit \$3,000 worth of project funding toward the materials and equipment necessary to make the Hidden Groves wheelchair accessible. Please contact us the BC Rehab office to let us know when you require the funds.

BC Rehab provides funding to other charitable organizations so that we can support people living with physical disabilities. We promote projects across British Columbia which encourage barrier-free communities and make opportunities available to all members of our province. BC Rehab advocates for communities that are designed so that all people, regardless of physical ability, may live and thrive.

BC Rehab would appreciate having recognition of our grant in your communications materials prior to and during the official completion of the project. Please note that in 6-12 months you will be asked to submit a report on this program and how the project has had a positive impact on the disabled community. Thank you again for your application and we look forward to hearing about the success of your project.

Yours sincerely,



Pamela MacDonald  
Manager of Projects and Communications



## **Informal Minutes of Meeting April 21, 2011 taken by Bob D'Arcy**

Attendees: Bob D'Arcy and Michael Davidson for the Sechelt Groves Society (SGS) and Kevin Davie, Warren Hansen and Brian Smart for Sunshine Coast Community Forest (SCCF)

1. After reviewing things that have been discussed at prior meetings, Kevin Davie outlined some goals and some outstanding items:
  - a. While he did not go into detail he confirmed that something was progressing on the kiosk for the entrance to the trails. Hopefully he will report some success prior to him leaving SCCF.
  - b. Interpretive Forest was reviewed as one of the SCCF goals:
    - i. Signage: - There was considerable discussion on the use of signs to mark tree species and other points of interest to visitors and in particular school classes. It was agreed that SCCF would order and pay for metal small signs that would be placed on posts at points of interest. Within reason, SGS would look after the posts and mounting at agreed spots.
    - ii. Trails: - SCCF must finalize the trails they envisage that will reach outside the Grove and be used in order to show regeneration of harvested areas. SGS would build (within reason) trails similar to the current Grove trails for SCCF.
  - c. De-commissioned Road: - SGS explained that at a meeting about a week ago Warren Hansen unexpectedly announced that the old logging road in the Sechelt Heritage Forest was now being considered as the haul road for harvesting of cut blocks AN008 - AN010. SGS expressed concerns for safety but just as importantly the disruption in what the Heritage Forest is all about. There is a more involved process to re-open such a road and SGS would have to oppose any such plan going forward. This issue was not resolved at this meeting.
2. Michael Davidson reiterated two concerns relating to cutblock AN009: firstly, that the wildlife tree patches be combined into a continuous strip from the HG eastern [municipal] boundary to the powerline to provide a continuous wooded route for the rerouting of the existing trail to the powerline. Secondly, that the retention progressively increase to almost full retention as the harvesting approached the municipal boundary, as previously discussed with Warren Hansen.
3. SGS outlined their plans for the handicap trail and the fund raising for it.
  - a. Davie told SGS to contact Glen Bonderud with a copy to Patrick Marshall regarding the fund raising and the need for approximately \$20,000 to complete the project. Specific mention should be made of the B&B Association support and the Tourist angle. There is a good chance that SCCF through their Economic Development division might be able to contribute a fairly large amount towards the cause.
4. It was agreed that this set of minutes would be created and circulated and also that a Memorandum of Understanding would be prepared for agreement during the week of April 25<sup>th</sup>.
5. Meeting adjourned.



## Informal Minutes of Meeting April 21, 2011 taken by Bob D'Arcy

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1. After reviewing things that have been discussed at prior meetings, Kevin Davie outlined some goals and some outstanding items:

\_\_\_\_\_ a. While he did not go into detail he confirmed that something was progressing on the kiosk for the \_\_\_\_\_ entrance to the trails. Hopefully he will report some success prior to him leaving SCCF.

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Demonstration and Interpretive Forest was reviewed as one of the SCCF goals outside of the Hidden Grove. :

\_\_\_\_\_ i. Signage: - There was considerable discussion on the use of signs to mark tree species \_\_\_\_\_ and other points of interest to visitors and in particular school classes. It was agreed \_\_\_\_\_ that SCCF would order and pay for metal small signs that would be placed on posts at points \_\_\_\_\_ of interest. Within reason, SGS would look after the posts and mounting at agreed spots.

\_\_\_\_\_ ii. Trails: - SCCF must finalize the trails they envisage that will reach outside the Grove \_\_\_\_\_ and be used in order to show regeneration of harvested areas. SGS would build (within \_\_\_\_\_ reason) trails similar to the current Grove trails for SCCF.

\_\_\_\_\_ c. De-commissioned Road: - SGS explained that at a meeting about a week ago Warren Hansen \_\_\_\_\_ unexpectedly announced that the old logging road in the Sechelt Heritage Forest was now being \_\_\_\_\_ considered as the haul road for harvesting of cut blocks AN008 - AN010. SGS expressed \_\_\_\_\_ concerns for safety but just as importantly the disruption in what the Heritage Forest is all about. \_\_\_\_\_ There is a more involved process to re-open such a road and SGS would have to oppose any \_\_\_\_\_ such plan going forward. This issue was not resolved at this meeting.

2. Michael Davidson reiterated two concerns relating to cutblock AN009: firstly, that the wildlife tree patches be combined into a continuous strip from the HG eastern [municipal] boundary to the powerline to provide a continuous wooded route for the rerouting of the existing trail to the powerline. Secondly, that the retention progressively increased \_\_\_\_\_ to almost full retention as the harvesting approached the municipal boundary, as previously discussed with Warren Hansen.

3. SGS outlined their plans for the handicap trail and the fund raising for it.

a. Davie told SGS to contact Glen Bonderud ~~with a copy to Patrick Marshall~~ regarding the fund raising and the need for approximately \$20,000 to complete the project. Specific mention should be made of the B&B Association support and the Tourist angle. There is a good chance that SCCF through their Economic Development division might be able to contribute a fairly large amount towards the cause.

4. It was agreed that this set of minutes would be created and circulated and also that a Memorandum of Understanding would be prepared for agreement during the week of April 25<sup>th</sup>.

5. Meeting adjourned.

**April 25, 2011 Memorandum of Understanding between Sunshine Coast Community Forest (SCCF) and Sechelt Groves Society (SGS)**

1) 1) — Nothing in this agreement fetters the right and legal obligations under the provincial laws pertaining to the operation of the SCCF.

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SGS will promote multiple use and support the community forest.

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1. SCCF will investigate or in the alternative assist SGS in having SGS added as an additional insured to the main liability policy of either SGGF or the District of Sechelt. It is understood that there may be special Conditions or Warranties to review. This shall be given high priority.
- 2) SGS may proceed with the building and improvement of trails and amenities throughout the Hidden Grove (HG) subject to any required approvals from the Provincial authorities and advice from SCCF. SCCF approval is automatic unless SCCF objects and then the parties will confer to resolve any differences.
- 3) SCCF will be responsible for locating any trails outside the Sechelt Heritage Forest (SHF) or HG and will confer with SGS as to their construction using SGS Trail builders.
- 4) SCCF will proceed with the finalization of a process whereby a log kiosk or sign structure will be in large part donated to SGS for erecting at the start of the main trails.
- 5) SCCF will supply or fund small signs for installation by SGS – signs that identify points of interest in the HG – to help with the interpretive forest aspects of the HG and beyond.
- 6) With respect to the HG, SCCF recognizes, accepts and supports, to the extent that the SCCF bylaws allow, the Constitution of the SGS that reads in part: i) “. The purpose(s) of the society (are): ii) To work to preserve, enhance and maintain ... those areas colloquially known as the Sechelt Heritage Forest and the Hidden Grove; This area is defined as those parts within the District of Sechelt Municipal boundary.  
iii) To organize for the development of amenities within the designated areas for the access and enjoyment of the general public, those with physical handicaps and education of school children and the general public;  
iv) To promote and develop amenities that will aid in the education of the public and particularly school children, in the wonders of and value of such preserved natural recreation forest areas;  
v) To assist the local tourism industry to promote and utilize the areas provided such use is not in conflict with the main purpose as set out in section 2 a) above as determined by the membership and executive;  
vi) To raise funds as needed for the furtherance of the activities of the society without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other assets of the organization shall be used solely to promote its objectives; “
- 7) SCCF will assist the SGS wherever reasonable in achieving its mutual interest mandate for the public

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Commented [MSOffice1]: It will give SGS first opportunity to build the trails.

forest including by providing ~~funds~~ directly or assisting in identifying and soliciting funding from other sources.

- 8) SGS, within its bylaw restraints, will assist the SCCF wherever reasonable in reaching its mandate as a community forest.

AGREED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF APRIL, 2011-04-23

For the Sechelt Grove Society For the Sunshine Coast Community Forest

Robert D'Arcy-President

**April 25, 2011 Memorandum of Understanding between Sunshine Coast Community Forest (SCCF) and Sechelt Groves Society (SGS)**

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- 3) SCCF will be responsible for locating any trails outside the Sechelt Heritage Forest (SHF) or HG and will confer with SGS as to their construction using SGS Trailbuilders.
- 4) SCCF will proceed with the finalization of a process whereby a log kiosk or sign structure will be in large part donated to SGS for erecting at the start of the main trails.
- 5) SCCF will supply or fund small signs for installation by SGS – signs that identify points of interest in the HG – to help with the interpretive forest aspects of the HG and beyond.
- 6) With respect to the HG, SCCF recognizes, accepts and supports, to the extent that the SCCF bylaws allow, the Constitution of the SGS that reads in part:
  - i) “. The purpose(s) of the society (are):
  - ii) To work to preserve, enhance and maintain ... those areas colloquially known as the Sechelt Heritage Forest and the Hidden Grove;
  - iii) To organize for the development of amenities within the designated areas for the access and enjoyment of the general public, those with physical handicaps and school children;
  - iv) To promote and develop amenities that will aid in the education of the public and particularly school children, in the wonders of and value of such preserved natural recreation areas;
  - v) To assist the local tourism industry to promote and utilize the areas provided such use is not in conflict with the main purpose as set out in section 2 a) above as determined by the membership and executive;
  - vi) To raise funds as needed for the furtherance of the activities of the society without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other assets of the organization shall be used solely to promote its objectives; “
- 7) SCCF will assist the SGS wherever reasonable in achieving its mandate for the public forest including by providing funds directly or assisting in identifying and soliciting other sources.
- 8) SGS, within its bylaw restraints, will assist the SCCF wherever reasonable in reaching its mandate as a community forest.

AGREED THIS \_\_\_\_\_DAY OF APRIL, 2011-04-23

For the Sechelt Grove Society

For the Sunshine Coast Community Forest

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert D'Arcy-President

\_\_\_\_\_

Robert D'Arcy

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From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>  
Sent: April-27-11 7:09 PM  
To: HiddenGrove-Work (workparty@hiddengrove.net)  
Subject: Sechelt Groves Society Thanks You

Hello to all you Trailbuilders,  
In all the rush to get the new Society setup we have not expressed our appreciation to all of you for all your dedicated work in the Hidden Grove (and the SHF too). We wish to tell you now, as a very small gesture of our thanks, we have come up with something we can afford<grin>

We are pleased to confirm that all of you who get this email as active Trailbuilders will get your 2011 membership in the Sechelt Groves Society for free. If you have already paid your membership, thanks, and we are applying this offer to your 2012 membership.  
We know it ain't much but we hope it conveys our heartfelt thanks to all of you for the many years of hard work.

We hope to see you at our first General Meeting on May 9th.

For the Sechelt Grove Society,  
Bob D'Arcy (President Pro Tem) and Michael Davidson (humble secretary pro tem too)

Two (2) PS's

1. I may be in touch if I don't have your particulars – address and so on.
2. There is a nice album of pictures of much of the hard work on the “back stairs” on the website now.  
<http://secheltgroves.com>





# Sechelt Groves Society

c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4

Email: [secheltgroves@eastlink.ca](mailto:secheltgroves@eastlink.ca)

Web Site: <http://secheltgroves.com>

Phone: 604-885-5766

Date: April 29, 2011

District of Sechelt,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 5795 Cowrie Street  
Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A3

Attn: Connie Jordison

Re: Sechelt Heritage Forest

Dear Connie,

I am not sure if this is directed to the right person so please pass it on if it is better served with someone else.

First, over the past few days staff has been trying to help me by looking for documentation that substantiated a memory. While many references have been found a hard document is still elusive. Maybe by the time this letter is processed there will be some luck in the quest.

The community memory is that sometime back in about 2002 or 2003 (but maybe later) the Province turned over care of the Sechelt Heritage Forest (Note: not the Hidden Grove) to the District of Sechelt. The District in turn recognized the efforts of the Trail Builders of the Sandy Hook Community Association (SHCA) and empowered them and assigned them to maintain the trails in the Forest. The permission may have been subject to overall approval of anything new by the Parks Department. With that proviso some insurance or a hold harmless followed so that the Trail Builders and SHCA were protected from third party problems. And so it has slept for nigh on these many years.

With effect March 8, 2011 the Trail Builders became a function of the new Sechelt Groves Society with the concurrence and cooperation of the SHCA. This letter is formal notice of the change and a request that the indemnity provided previously to the Sandy Hook Community Forest move over to the new Society.

Secondly, you are also aware that the Trail Builders first under the cloak of SHCA and now under the auspices of the Sechelt Groves Society (SGS) are creating trails, assisting in parking provisions and many more ambitious projects in the Hidden Grove. All projects are approved by the Sunshine Coast Community Forest (SSCF) and, where required, by the Province. We have been regularly requesting the SSCF to arrange for the Society to be added as an additional insured under the insurance policy of the SSCF but it seemed to just get put off.

**Support the Society - Become a Member - Donate - All Online**

Last week we were advised that the SSCF insurance is provided by an endorsement to the main Municipal Liability policy of the District and that the entire SSCF is not operated as a separate independent limited company but rather all its functions fall under the consolidated financial arrangements of the District. The forgoing has been a rather longwinded request that arrangements be made soonest for the SGS to be added as an additional insured under the policy applicable. We are looking only for third party or liability insurance and not for any more sophisticated covers such as Directors and Officers coverage.

As you may be aware we are on the launch pad for starting a major project – a handicap trail – and we would like something in place soonest.

My apologies for the length of this letter but it was not easy to boil down.

Thank you very much and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sechelt Groves Society

per: **R.B. D'Arcy** (computer Signature)

President Pro Tem

FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SECHELT GROVES SOCIETY  
Monday, May 9th, 2011  
Meeting of the Membership and Guests

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Pro Tem President, Bob D'Arcy

1) President introduced Head Table

Attendees were referred to the agenda handed out

2) Rules of Order were outlined by the President

3) President gave an introductory report outlining a brief history of the Society and why it was formed along with the overall goals of the Society as governed by the constitution.

4) President gave the report of the Nominating Committee:

a) The proposed list of the maximum 8 board members of the Society was circulated with the notice of meeting and is comprised of Bob D'Arcy, Michael Davidson, Gertrude Pacific, Gray Waddell, Rupert Clark, Michael Siddall, Douglas Smith, Mike Sutcliffe

b) Board Members will serve rotating two year terms

c) Officers will be elected by the Board Members in a subsequent meeting (within 10 Days)

d) In consultation with the President of the Sandy Hook Community Association, two (2) Board positions were offered to Board members of the SHCA in accordance with Bylaw 25 of the Society.

e) Nominations are not allowed from the floor

A MOTION to accept the above items was made by Rupert Clark, seconded by Betty Keller and passed unanimously.

5) Treasurer's report –

a) A pro tem financial report (on the back of each agenda handed out to all attendees) was read out

b) The fiscal year of the Society will be January 1 to December 31 of each year

A MOTION to accept the above items was made by Douglas Smith and seconded by Michael Siddall, passing unanimously.

6) Membership Report -

a) Total members paid up to date are: 29

b) MOTION:

For the calendar year of 2011 membership dues are \$10 for an individual for one calendar year, however provision is made for other levels of membership, notably:

i) Friend or Silver at \$50

ii) Sponsor or Gold at \$100

iii) Lifetime at \$1000

And members of the work party (as defined by M. Davidson) shall be entitled to a free 2011 membership but if they have paid their 2011 membership a credit shall be given towards the 2012 membership. Moved by Gray Waddell, seconded by Rupert Clark and passed unanimously

7) Planning Report (Michael Davidson) -

- a) Davidson offered a map showing many of the works to come and then commented on each:
    - i) The Handicap Trail that we are raising funds for may include a loop near the Ancient Grove.
    - ii) Four new trails that are currently waiting for Provincial approval.
  - b) Parking may need to be expanded along the entrance to the lot to address overflows already happening.
  - c) Negotiations are underway with the Community Forest to possibly build some interpretive trails leading out of the Hidden Groves to further their educational mandate.
  - d) There is concern regarding a proposed cut block (AN009) on the eastern boundary of Hidden Groves as this could negatively affect the walking experience and possibly leave trees within the Hidden Groves open to wind damage.
  - e) A new stone staircase has replaced the original scramble up to the Pine Bluff view point.
  - g) Looking to the District for some proper traffic signs for free or close to free.
- The report was received and some questions regarding the Community Forest input were fielded.

8) Open Discussion and Questions –

- a) The possibility of selling memorial benches for designated locations within the Hidden Groves/Sechelt Heritage Forest was discussed.
- b) Concern was raised over the possibility of Mountain Bikes using the trails. It was pointed out that neither they nor any motorized vehicles are permitted on the trails although there is currently no signage to that effect.

9) Adjournment -

At 7:55 a MOTION to adjourn was made by Gray Waddell, seconded by Michael Siddall and passed unanimously.

Part of Email to entire board – May 10, 2011

4. The bylaws require that we hold a meeting within 10 days of the AGM to elect the officers. If no one disagrees, this email to all opens a meeting today, May 10, 2011. The proposed slate is: President -Bob D'Arcy , Vice President - Gertrude Pacific and Secretary/Treasurer - Michael Davidson. Now will EVERYONE RESPOND with a for or against or an alternate slate and if it goes OK we can close the meeting as soon as the "votes" are in.

THEN

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The referenced meeting was adjourned at 0915 May 11, 2011 and the following results were recorded:

In favour 8 Not in favour 0

The new President is Bob D'Arcy and the new Secretary/Treasurer is Michael Davidson and for legal reasons to comply with the bylaws and in recognition of service the Board accepts Gertrude Pacific as Vice-President but without line of secession attached to the position.

Bob D'Arcy  
President, Sechelt Groves Society  
<http://secheltgroves.com>

As part of our fund raising efforts President Bob D'Arcy spoke at the Rotary Club of Sechelt on My 12, 2011. In Closing he said:

"Yes, you could see it coming – we would be very happy if this Rotary Club would consider us as a recipient of some of your hard earned funds. It should be a no-brainer as you would be helping those who are disadvantaged in wheelchairs, improving an already popular tourist destination in your own town, and helping a major community project to advance. As a bonus, anytime you want an escorted tour please do not hesitate to call us and we will be delighted to set it up. Also be sure and visit our website at [www.secheltgroves.com](http://www.secheltgroves.com)"



During wait 01 - May 12

Thank you very much for that kind introduction – It's just the same as the one that I wrote and sent in! Now, I am here on a mission that has absolutely nothing to do with any and I mean any of the stuff in my bio. I am here about a couple of pieces of nature right in Sechelt that are in one word – wonderful.

First there is the Sechelt Heritage Forest which is this rectangle on the map. You can see it is in the District of Sechelt and touches on the community of Sandy Hook.

Back in 1998 the lumber companies who were eying the Heritage Forest agreed, under substantial public pressure, to allow the land to be preserved forever and set aside as a natural and interpretive forest. From the very beginning there were crews of volunteers who developed paths and maintained them. The District chipped in (no pun intended) and had the Parks folks even build a bridge over the small stream. The really persistent and dedicated person behind this great effort was a Sandy Hooker, Gertrude Pacific. I am pleased to tell you she is still involved in preserving forest areas and is a board member of our new Society – more about that later.

Anyway, things settled down for a few short years when one day I got a phone call as then President of the Sandy Hook Community Association. A resident who lived up at the turnoff into Sandy Hook had spotted some plastic ribbons on trees across the road

Slide #

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from her and wanted to know what that was about. Damned if I knew. The nearest I was to tree hugging was a grade school friend called Holly and that was just a prickly affair.

Along with a couple of other members we went to investigate and there was what is now called the Hidden Grove. And hidden it was. No one knew there were old trees and beautiful forest areas and a view point looking out over Sechelt and beyond to Vancouver Island. It had to be saved. First the Community Association formed a committee to specialize in this endeavour and I was the Chair of that as I remain today some 11 years later. I will not bore you with all the rounds of battle, the many lumber companies who claimed that 1000 year old trees were not rare enough to be saved. We knew it had to be saved.

Early on the Hidden Grove Park Committee of the Sandy Hook Community Association started working on the District of Sechelt as the whole cut block laid within the District boundaries. The District in turn formally asked the Committee to do up a formal detailed plan for a natural or recreational forest area and that we did. The District applied to the Province to have the land turned over to the District to be a park but this failed. It seems that some other communities had tried something similar and then instead of keeping a park sold the land off to developers. The Committee was sort of on its own but not for long.

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First, of course, the District of Sechelt encouraged us some. We then approached the Sechelt Indian Band to be sure we were not in breach of some understanding. The SIB agreed to support the project but with a minor change – do not use the word PARK. That would bar any native plant gathering activities and they wanted that privilege maintained. So then we became the Hidden Grove Legacy Committee of the SHCA. Whew! You should have seen the letterhead. The community Associations of the District gave us written support. Some of tourist groups jumped on the band wagon so that over a period of nearly 9 years we fought the good fight. In 2005 the District's Community Forest came into play and guess what? They had tenure over the Hidden Grove and could clear cut it. At their first public meeting the residents showed up and the Chair of the Community Forest agreed to a 5 year moratorium on logging in the Hidden Grove. We wanted more than just a promise to 2011. Part of the mandate of a community forest is to utilize forest for other things besides cutting and chopping. The Community Forest then agreed to support the Grove as a primary recreational area for as long as they have tenure. That now appears to be 25 years and by that time, preserved and used, the Hidden Grove will be as sacred to Sechelt as Stanley Park is to Vancouver. No one will dare go logging in it. So where are we today?

05c

First off, the Sechelt Heritage Forest is doing just fine so my remarks now will be restricted to what we call the Hidden Grove. The volunteer work parties have done wonders. Getting together twice a week in the fall and spring with once a week the rest of the year, these dedicated volunteers put in a good 2 and one half hours of real labour but for a coffee and cookie break. Trails have been set up through most of the Grove and others are contemplated. The trails are well marked with maps on posts at every trail intersection and color coding of every trail with colour markers. Stone steps that would be the envy of any bank or church have been hand crafted to the viewpoint. We are ready for some new projects – ones that cost big money.

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In November with help from the District and the Community Forest we were able to install a hard surface parking lot with space for 12 cars, 2 buses and 2 vans. There is still work being done but it is usable and much appreciated by Grove users.

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Grove users? How many are we talking about? Even on a rainy cold winter day you do not drive into an empty parking lot. There are always one or more cars waiting empty to take their Grove users back home. Now with nicer weather the parking lot is sometimes full and folks must park out on Inlet Road. Best assessment including trying out a motion sensitive camera are between 50 and 80 car loads on any weekend day and still 30 to 50 on weekdays, We

07c

have no tally on how many in each car but usually it is 2 or more so call it 3. Using the middle of the estimates we have we are looking at over 1000 visitors a week every week from about April 1 to November 1 with about a quarter of the summer visits in the real winter months. And there are exceptional days. The Happy Hikers out of Gibson with over 100 souls on one day. Once a bus load of visitors from Korea went through – 60 of them who unanimously said it was one of the nicest parts of their trip to date. That brings up the tourism aspect. We are located just 4 klicks from the provincial park. The Sunshine Coast Bed and Breakfast Cottage Owners Association rate the Grove high enough to kindly pay for our brochures. I have one for each of you. The B&B folks hand them out as a feature of the Sechelt area. The Sechelt Tourist centre down the way has a supply they hand out to visitors. There is a small supply on BC Ferries too.

And here are a few pictures to give you more of the flavour of the Hidden Grove.

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What now?

The Committee realized they were starting on activities that needed more attention than the Community Association could muster and that attention had to very focused if we wished to raise money. We needed a separate society with a constitution and bylaws that would enable us to issue

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tax receipts to donors. With the full cooperation of the Community Association a new registered Society was set up – the Sechelt Groves Society. We had our Society paperwork finally on March 8<sup>th</sup> this year. We are in the process with Revenue Canada to obtain the right to issue tax receipts.

And what is the first big project. A handicap trail suitable for wheel chairs and walkers into the ancient grove part of the forest. Such a trail must be: 5 feet wide with one foot shoulders each side, hard packed or paved surface and a grade not to exceed 5% anywhere. We have a large part roughed in already. We are talking a major hard surfaced trail of some length with nothing but beauty as one goes along it. And think about the future. With the current demographic of the Coast those who are using wheel chairs and walkers will only grow in numbers as the baby boomers mature. As an aside we already have one group pestering us for this trail that we did not think of. Moms with strollers are very limited on where they can go with their strollers or buggies, Here will be a whole new adventure.

Now the volunteers are keen so we are down to money. Our most modest budget for material and machine time is about \$16,000. So far we have \$3000. in hand thanks to the BC ReHab Foundation. We have submissions out to the District, the SCRCD the SC foundation and more.

21stair

22stair



Yes, you could see it coming – we would be very happy if this Rotary Club would consider us as a recipient of some of your hard earned funds. It should be a no-brainer as you would be helping those who are disadvantaged in wheelchairs, improving an already popular tourist destination in your own town, and helping a major community project to advance. As a bonus, anytime you want an escorted tour please do not hesitate to call us and we will be delighted to set it up. Also be sure and visit our website at [www.secheltgroves.com](http://www.secheltgroves.com).

In any event, thank you very much for this opportunity to spread the word and I would be happy to try and field any questions you might have.

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## A New Society—Why Bother?

In 2002 a Committee was formed in the Sandy Hook Community Association when markings of a logging company were spotted where we now find the Hidden Grove. For over 7 years the battle raged to gain some permanent protection of the area. The new Community Forest agreed to not log the Grove for as long as they have tenure over the land. On June 10th it was official—The CF had a new 25 year tenure.

With the protection battle over the Hidden Grove crews could turn to developing the Hid-



den Grove to be more accessible, easier to navigate and a real gem on the Sunshine Coast. It was soon realized that all the work involved would stretch the already busy SHCA and so it seemed a dedicated new organization made sense. Also, some of the plans involved raising big money and a Revenue

Canada tax receipt ability was very desirable to aid in the donor soliciting.

After a great deal of thought and consideration the new Society was incorporated on March 8, 2011. Application is in to Revenue Canada for tax consideration.

AND big plans are afoot. With the new parking lot pretty well completed we are now moving into new projects—all to make YOUR Hidden Grove even better for you and for your children and your visitors. Stay tuned. You ain't seen

### SPECIAL POINTS WE WRITE ABOUT

- ◆ A new Society for the betterment of Sechelt and Sandy Hook
- ◆ Handicap Trail project starting soon
- ◆ New easy to follow guides in forest
- ◆ Membership counts



### Your society Board of Directors

- ◆ President—Bob D'Arcy—885-5766
- ◆ Vice President—Gertrude Pacific
- ◆ Secretary/  
Treasurer—Michael Davidson
- ◆ Directors:  
Rupert Clark—SHCA  
Gray Waddell—SHCA  
Doug Smith—Village  
Michael Siddall—East  
Porpoise Bay  
Mike Sutcliffe—Work parties

## The Wheelchair Trail

First of the new big projects should be starting in early July—a handicap trail for those in wheelchairs or with walkers (yes, and Moms with strollers too!). The trail starts at the north-east end of the parking lot where a area for at least two handicap vans has been set aside. The trail is to run all the way into the “ancient grove” so the BIG trees can be viewed. It is

expensive!

The trail will be hard surfaced, 5 feet wide with generous shoulders and no grade in excess of 5%. Best estimates are a cost between \$14,000 and \$20,000. We have gone out for grants and so far have raised over \$6,200 dedicated to the project. Thank you to BC Rehab Foundation, SC Community Foun-

dation and the District of Sechelt for their generous gifts.

We have a long way to go but we are working on it and just know we will get there.

### SPECIAL THANKS

To the Sunshine Coast Community Forest for so much of the Parking lot work and to the District of Sechelt for machinery and signs.

## Trail Builders and Trail Work



*Someone* keeps the trails cleared of fallen trees after a wind. *Someone* fills in the wet spots and grooms the trails. *Someone* locates new trails and lays them out for

future building. *Someone* makes the maps and sees to the mounting for you guidance.

That "*Someone*" IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT OR A CORPORATION. It is volunteers in work parties and in organizational roles who do everything gratis.

From 6 to 12 volunteers get an email of where to meet

up twice a week They go out and do all that work for 3 or 4 hours—every week (Ok not Christmas). Just a quick break for coffee and a cookie and then back at it. Most are from Sandy Hook but we have a Tuwanek and a West Sechelt volunteer.

If you one of the workers be sure an give them a special thank you. Years of wonderful effort earns it.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

This one to the Sunshine Coast Bed & Breakfast, Cottage Owners Association who very kindly sponsor our classy, glossy brochure. Many of these are handed out at B&Bs and campgrounds throughout Sechelt. A supply is kept up at the Sechelt Visitors Centre and they are very well received. This is the second year they have

Do you or your family or visitors go to the Hidden Grove or Sechelt Heritage Forest?

Did You enjoy it and feel it is well looked after?

Should it should be preserved and always available to all?

If the answer is YES to any of these then:

Join the Sechelt Groves Society and maybe donate too.

Yes, we can use the money but the important thing is memberships. When we apply for a grant we get a lot more attention if we have 100 members than if we only have 40.

Help swell our membership list. IT IS IMPORTANT. We cannot do it alone.



Save Time  
AND a  
Stamp.

Go to our  
website and  
join onl ine  
using your  
credit card  
safe and  
fast

WWW.

secheltgroves.com

## Sechelt Groves Society

### Membership Form

Send To: SGS c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4

*Please print clearly—it must be accurate for the tax receipt*

Save a stamp—  
You can drop it in  
the brass mailbox on  
the porch instead

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual  Company  Association Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Confidentiality Assured) \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

I or my family members visit the Groves \_\_\_\_\_ times per year on average?

Type of membership for which I am enclosing payment:

\_\_\_\_ LIFETIME—\$1000.00 \_\_\_\_ Friend—\$50.00 \_\_\_\_ Sponsor—\$100.00 \_\_\_\_ Just Annual—\$10.00  
(no tax receipt issued)

NOTE: Tax receipts are NOT available at this time

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use: Entered in Ledger \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Receipt Issued: \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_



Building a better community for tomorrow. Today.

---

June 1, 2011

Sechelt Grove Society

Dear Bob D'Arcy ,

email: secheltgroves@eastlink.ca

Re: Hidden Grove Handicapped Trail

Your application regarding the above named project was recently reviewed by the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation board of directors. I am pleased to advise you that a grant in the amount of \$2,200 has been approved.

These funds will be provided to you on the understanding that your project will be completed within 10 months and further that you will provide us with an evaluation of the project with receipts if applicable by March 15th, 2012. An evaluation form can be found on our web site at [www.sccfoundation.com](http://www.sccfoundation.com) . Any recognition that you could give the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation for this grant would be appreciated. Our logo is available by request and we would welcome receiving project pictures that may be used by our foundations for public relation purposes.

You, or a member of your committee, are invited to attend a short ceremony on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the Seaside Centre to receive your cheque. We are pleased to assist your organization with this important project and wish you every success.

Yours truly,  
Peter Bogardus  
Chair, SCCF

**Please RSVP your attendance on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and confirmation on who will be attending to [eliserudland@dccnet.com](mailto:eliserudland@dccnet.com)**

(A database generated email to members and some others)

You may want to open the attached map for reference.

Hello again to all Sechelt Groves Society supporters,

### **MORE OF HIDDEN GROVE AREA IS PROTECTED**

You are all aware of the recent walk about in the Hidden Grove conducted by Community Forest Ops Manager Dave Lasser. It was primarily to review the cutting plans for what are called Blocks AN8, AN9 and AN10 all of which are close to the Grove above and out towards the power line sort of. 8 and 10 are really of no concern but AN9 is another story.

AN9 really borders on the north east side of the grove and some of our Green trail goes through it. We have long recognized that we might have to move the green trail since it is clearly outside the Grove and District boundaries. Our biggest concern was blow down and light pollution into the Grove by cutting too close and in particular near our post 19. On the map you can see the little square block that juts in. Light might well penetrate all the way to the Lonely Giant spoiling the abeyance forever.

On Wednesday the 28th we met with Dave. After a brief introduction, Dave pushed a map into the centre of the table and drew two lines on it. No logging within those. We were very pleasantly stunned.

You can see that the little bit past post 19 is saved. But so too is a very nice large chunk enclosing the green trail towards the north. The green trail can remain fully protected. It is like a good sized enlargement of the Grove. These areas had always been legal cut blocks even going back to the Interfor and Canfor days. Folks, this is a very generous concession and we can celebrate.

While it is expected that any heavy equipment can be brought in from the east over a long deactivated logging road it is not practical for the hauling out of the logs. Dave tried to get the now defunct Silverback group to allow a road from the power line over to Sechelt Inlet Road but with them in receivership no decision could be obtained. That leaves reactivating the old logging road through the lower part of the Sechelt Heritage Forest – down where the chain is for the former entrance to the Lion's Club tree farm.

Logging of all three blocks is expected to start towards the end of this month and will only go on for about 6 months – the winter months thank goodness. Dave has done this before and will do it in a most sensitive way taking care to disturb as little as possible on that short stretch of road. There will be no new roads. There will be a flagman when trucks are moving out so those coming down the hill curves will be safely controlled. At the end of the logging they will deactivate the road, restore it as best can be done and will even sow grasses to help Mother Nature take over again better than now. That will be the end of logging near the Grove for probably 100 years.

A letter from the Society of support for the road opening was requested and after a unanimous vote by your board such a letter (with lots of provisos!) was sent out today.

### **THE HANDICAP TRAIL**

Hello all SGS members,

I thought you might like an update on how things are going with the Hidden Grove so here goes:

- a) Trail building and maintenance is ably supervised (sort of) by Michael Davidson and if you want to get the flavour of what goes on just go to <http://secheltgroves.com/work.html> where each of the little daily notices of what the work parties will do is recorded. A work party is on the job every 3 or 4 days usually for about two and a half hours.
- b) Brochures – we have revised them only slightly by adding a couple of pictures. A new order is in being paid for by a generous donation from the B&B Association. The B&Bs and the Tourist Bureaus are supplied with the brochures throughout the year. The folks at the Tourist Bureau say the Hidden Grove brochures are among the most well received and liked handouts they have. Many recipients come back to the bureau to say how much they enjoyed the Groves.
- c) The Handicap Trail fund raising is rolling right along. As of this email date the fund has reached \$5,200 based on two grants – BC Rehab Foundation and Sunshine Coast Community Foundation. See and monitor the thermometer at <http://secheltgroves.com/>
- d) Organization – after our very successful first General Meeting we have a full board and all officer positions are filled. See details at <http://secheltgroves.com/about.html>
- e) Membership – after a burst at the start it has really quieted down. We need membership to show how we are supported by the public and for those day to day funds that pay for signs and posts and others bits and pieces. PLEASE implore your friends to join especially if you or they use the Groves for recreation. It is easy to join online with a credit card at <http://secheltgroves.com/join.html> or a cheque can be mailed in.

We hope you favour these periodic updates on all the wonderful progress. And don't forget, ENJOY the GROVES and we would be happy to hear from you.

Your Sechelt Groves Society  
Stay up to date at <http://secheltgroves.com/>

CC: All current members and some Sunshine Coast Officials and Officers

## SANDYHOOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



### HIDDEN GROVE COMMITTEE BECOMES SECHELT GROVES SOCIETY

Sandy Hook Community Association is proud to announce that its Hidden Groves committee is now a separate society, called "Sechelt Groves Society." You can find a great deal of information about Hidden Groves at [www.secheltgroves.com](http://www.secheltgroves.com).

Hidden Groves is a combination of giant trees, maple wetland and rocky promontories. There's easy access and parking at the entrance to the trails, lots of trails available and maps to guide you. Most trails are relatively easy to navigate, and you can see some splendid views of both Vancouver Island and Sechelt Inlet along the way. And, yes, you can let your well-mannered dog run off leash legally. (There are no washrooms and no garbage disposal at Hidden Groves. You should be prepared to remove your pet's waste from public areas and trails).

The gently rising trail into the heart of the Hidden Groves passes rocky outcrops and mossy plateaus to arrive at the Ancient Grove, a concentrated grouping of firs, both old growth and large second growth. From here, more challenging trails lead to named trees such as the 'Twister' and the 'Lonely Giant' as well Pine Bluff with its 'mystery' bench and view of Sechelt. Along the way, sharp eyes may spot uncommon species such as the white pine, western yew, evergreen huckleberry or rattlesnake plantain.

One of the unusual features near the Hidden Groves parking area is the recent revival of 'bark-stripping' by the Sechelt Indian Band. Leaving the tree unharmed, the cedar bark is still used for traditional baskets, regalia and clothing.

Hidden Groves Legacy is blessed with varied terrain which blocks the sounds of civilization, creating the illusion of a much larger and more remote forest, thus allowing everyone a private experience of this remarkable place.

The Sechelt Groves Society was incorporated on March 8, 2011. It will hold its first general meeting on May 11 where a board will be endorsed. The current list includes Sandy Hook residents Bob D'Arcy, Michael Davidson, Gertrude Pacific, and Mike Sutcliffe along with Rupert Clarke and Gray Waddell, representing the Sandy Hook Community Association board. To balance things out there are also Michael Siddall for East Porpoise Bay and Doug Smith for the Village.

Sechelt Groves Society welcomes members and contributors to its ongoing projects. You can join in at their website.





Clearwater Times - Business

TEXT

COMMENTS

EMAIL LETTER PRINT FOLLOW SHARE

# Sunshine Coast Community Forest receives 25 year tenure agreement

By [Contributed - Clearwater Times](#)  
Published: June 12, 2011 1:00 PM

SECHELT - The Board of Directors of the Sunshine Coast Community Forest and the District of Sechelt are pleased to announce that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has approved a 25 year renewable Community Forest Agreement (CFA) tenure.



This is effective immediately and replaces the five-year Probationary Community Forest Agreement (PCFA) tenure granted to the District of Sechelt in 2006.

"The District of Sechelt saw the need for and benefits of having a community forest; an economic endeavour that is now proving its economic as well as its recreational value to the community. We would like to thank all those who have contributed greatly to the creation and success of this operation: Mayor Inkster and council, past mayors and councils of Sechelt; past chairs Mr. Len Pakulak and Mr. John Henderson; and past Operations Manager Mr. Kevin Davie," said Glen Bonderud, Chairperson of the Board of Sechelt Community Projects Incorporated (SCPI), the company that operates the Sunshine Coast CFA on behalf of the District of Sechelt.

"As we look to the future, we will be working with the community to build relationships and a better understanding of all positions and opinions related to the management of the Community Forest. Our aim is to foster a better understanding of the economic, social, environmental and recreational benefits created, and the jobs our Community Forest can create and sustain on the Sunshine Coast," said Bonderud.

"The granting of this CFA ensures that local watershed management remains in the hands of local owners and residents. The District of Sechelt and SCPI are committed to protecting drinking water quality and to the maintenance of a high quality community watershed," said Sechelt Mayor Darren Inkster.

SCPI is a subsidiary of the District of Sechelt, and operates the Sunshine Coast Community Forest under tenure from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and [Natural Resources](#), with a mandate to maintain a healthy, sustainable forest for future generations. For additional information on the Sunshine Coast CFA and SCPI, visit [www.sccf.ca](http://www.sccf.ca).

-By Sunshine Coast Regional District

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PLACE YOUR AD HERE





*Building a better community for tomorrow. Today.*

June 13, 2011

Sechelt Groves Society

Attention: Bob D'Arcy:

Dear Mr. D'Arcy:

Re: Hidden Groves Handicapped Trail Application for Grant

On behalf of the Board of the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation, I am pleased to enclose a grant of \$2,200 to assist you with the Hidden Groves Handicapped Trail.

These funds are provided on the understanding that your project will be completed within 10 months and that Sechelt Groves Society will provide us with a Grant Evaluation Report for the project, with receipts where applicable, by March 15th, 2012. . The Report form can be found on our website at [www.sccfoundation.com](http://www.sccfoundation.com) .

Any recognition you are able to provide to Sunshine Coast Community Foundation for this grant would be appreciated. Our logo is available by request and we would welcome receiving project photographs which may be used by our foundations for public relation purposes.

We are pleased to assist your organization with this important project and wish you every success.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter W. Bogardus". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Peter W. Bogardus  
Chair, SCCF

## Sunshine Coast Community Foundation

Sunshine Coast Community Foundation held its 2011 granting ceremony on June 13 at the Seaside Centre. Foundation chair Peter Bogardus was the entertaining MC for the evening. The Foundation continues to be a good news story. In 2011 the endowments increased from 21 to 26 in number, totalling \$750,000. In the eight years the Foundation has been part of the Sunshine Coast philanthropy community over \$110,000 in grants have been made to deserving charities. For more photos, see our online galleries at [www.coastreporter.net](http://www.coastreporter.net).

**PHOTOS BY CATHIE ROY**



SCCF director Elise Rudland presented a grant to Bob D'Arcy of the Sechelt Groves Society to make the trails at Hidden Grove accessible to folks with mobility issues.



I was pleased when Gray Waddell called me and asked that I speak about one of my favourite subjects: the Groves of Sechelt or more correctly, of Sandy Hook. Aside from the natural history there is a lot of political history and I confess to being at the forefront of that now for over 10 years as chairman of the Hidden Grove Committee of the Association or as President of the new Sechelt Groves Society. It is about the Society that I would like to concentrate my brief remarks.

As mentioned the Association had a Committee for over 10 years that was established when the signs went out to log the area we now know as Hidden Grove. Thanks to those signs we found the beautiful Grove and vowed to protect it and maybe someday develop it for better accessibility. The protection war raged intensely for years and finally about 4 years ago we really received some assurance that logging would not go ahead. This assurance came from the Sunshine Coast Community Forest who had been granted tenure over the land. Thanks in part to a smart play by Gray Waddell at a Community Forest general meeting, the Community Forest promised not to log for the length of their current tenure – it was just 2 years at the time. Then it got extended to 5 years and we could relax a bit. On last Saturday I am pleased to advise that the tenure is now for 25 more years so I don't think I have to fret for the rest of my life!

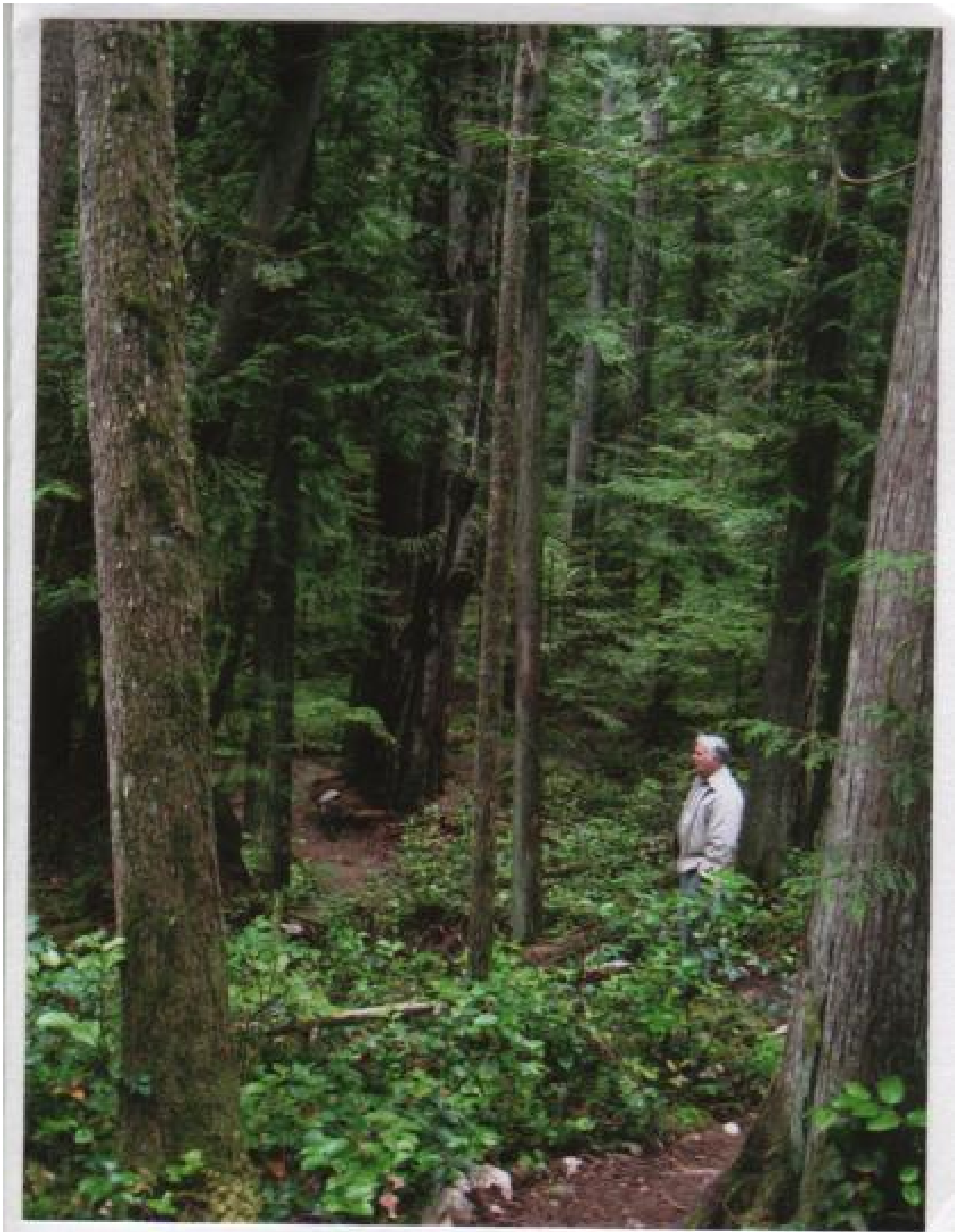
As we gained assurance that the area would be preserved we started to move in earnest to do some of the development work we felt was needed. Michael Davison and his hearty group of wonderful volunteers began to develop the trail system in earnest. New markings were put in place along with maps at all trail intersections. Personally, I gave up the manual labour bit to concentrate on the admin and plans. As we worked towards getting a parking lot in it became clear that the whole project was getting beyond what a committee of the Association could find time to really address. It needed a dedicated setup but of equal or more importance it required a separate society with a constitution that would allow applying to Revenue Canada for tax deductible status. We were going to need some big money and the issuance of tax receipts could help that immensely. We formed the Sechelt Groves Society and have an application in to Ottawa for the tax status. It will take a while as things do in Ottawa.

Now a bit about the Society. First, we wanted to maintain our relationship with the Association both to engage its help but also to say thanks for all the years of support. The new 8 member board of the Society has 2 spaces set aside for Association board members and Gray Waddell and Rupert Clarke have kindly agreed to fill those spots.

With the parking lot pretty well developed we are moving on to other projects. First off is the Handicap Trail at a preliminary budget of \$20,000. We have \$6,200 in hand as we speak and going for more. There are important new trail items to get on with. Eventually, following the original 2002 plan, we hope to see an interpretive centre near the entrance where visitors including school children can take classes. One might learn about general forest matters and see displayed various flora of the area. The Sechelt Indian Band may display traditional medicine plants and handcrafts made from forest products. We think we may have found a donor for an entrance kiosk in the Grove to hold signage and particular signs thanking the donors. Oh! And we used the plural Groves in the name since we still carry on maintaining and developing the trails in The Sechelt Heritage Forest as well.

Everyone here can do something to help us that is pretty easy. Join the Society. An annual membership is only \$10. The big plus for the Society besides the money is that the more members we have the more credible we are when we apply for grants to various foundations. One hundred members have a lot more bang than 35. I have forms here with me today but it is easy to join on line using your credit card. Yes, we have a very active website at [secheltgroves.com](http://secheltgroves.com) and we really encourage you to visit it often to stay up to date. There is lots going on.

Lastly, I would like to thank the board of the Association for granting us some seed money to get started. It has bought a lot of sign posts and laminating stuff. Thank you again and please join the Society.



5 July 11

Dear Bob,

Enclosed is a check  
to be used for a  
bench, plaque, installation,  
etc. for Hidden Grove.

(Plaque lettering suggestions:

honor of Robert B. D'Arcy  
memory of William G. D'Arcy

OR

Robert B. D'Arcy  
William G. D'Arcy

OR

D'Arcy family

OR

Robert B. D'Arcy

OR

?

Love,  
Nancy

NANCY S. D'ARCY 10-81

4167

7-5-11 DATE

18-1/1010  
994

PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF

*Sechelt Groves Society*

\$ 1000.00

*One thousand*

DOLLARS



Security  
Features  
Available on  
Bank



**Commerce Bank**<sup>NA</sup>  
St. Louis, MO 63109 994  
www.commercebank.com

*Hidden Grove*

Signature Hidden for Security

FOR *bench, plaque, installation,*  
*etc*

MP

⑆ 10 10000 19⑆ 083475969 ⑆ 4 167





## Sandy Hook Community Association

5916 Skookumchuk Road,

Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4

Web site: <http://www.sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca/>

July 15, 2011

**BY EMAIL** – (mail@secheltgroves.com)

To: Sechelt Groves Society  
c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive  
Sechelt, BC  
V0N3A4

Dear Sir

Re: Letter of Support for Sechelt Groves Society

I am writing this letter as President of the Sandy Hook Community Association (SHCA) and to encourage the Sechelt Groves Society's request for support. Over 11 years ago members of SHCA and other residents of Sandy Hook started building trails and placing signage in what became Hidden Grove, a natural and ecologically sensitive forest area adjacent to Sandy Hook. In July of 2002, as a result of continuing efforts to protect Hidden Grove, the District of Sechelt asked the SHCA to form a Committee to plan for the future of the Grove. As the Committee developed its plans, it approached the Sechelt Band to ensure its involvement for efforts to save Hidden Grove as well as to understand and incorporate traditional Band cultural practices of plant and bark gathering; these practices also have great potential to bridge gaps in understanding among people through education and demonstration of native skills.

Because Hidden Grove is part of the Sechelt Community Forest, there was not a firm commitment to protect the Grove from logging. The SHCA's Hidden Grove Committee continued to fight to have the District support Hidden Grove and its future as a unique recreational and educational area that would benefit Sunshine Coast residents and visitors. SHCA's leadership and members formed the core of the Committee, which carried out both political action at the levels of the District Council and the Community Forest, while it developed trails, signage, information, and educational programs and tours in the Grove. Trails were created and planned to highlight the unique environment of Hidden Grove and to provide access to all, including the disabled.

The Sandy Hook Community Association continued its leadership of this effort and provided annual funding in its budget to continue the Grove's development and marketing. The results of this work included in 2006 the first 5-year moratorium on any logging in Hidden Grove, but the dangers to the Grove were not over. In 2008 trees in the Grove were marked for logging and efforts were intensified to stop any further possible damage or harvesting. In 2009 Sechelt Community Projects, Incorporated (SCPI), the management organization for the Community Forest, relented and issued a letter of protection for Hidden Grove; this will extend the Grove's protection for 25 years. Improvements to Hidden Grove over the past several years have included new signage, continued trail clearing and development, gravel paving the access road and parking area, printing and wide distribution of brochures and other marketing efforts, web



site updating, and final planning for the accessible (handicap) trail. The SHCA continued support of the Committee through both funding and volunteer assistance.

In early 2011 members of the Hidden Grove committee, with the encouragement of the Sandy Hook Community Association as well as a seed grant from the SHCA, incorporated as a separate organization, the Sechelt Groves Society. SHCA fully supports this step as better enabling the protection, development, and fulfillment of the educational and recreational potential of Hidden Grove and, in the future, other ecologically sensitive and possibly threatened areas in the District of Sechelt. The new Society has adopted its Legacy Plan, and has already been successful in obtaining partial funding for its general support and for development of the accessible trail. It has developed a core group of members and maintains a strong relationship with the SHCA through overlapping board memberships.

As president of the Sandy Hook Community Association, I encourage consideration of additional funding for the Sechelt Groves Society; our Board and members fully support the continued protection and enhancement of Hidden Grove as an educational and recreational treasure for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,



Kirk Exner  
President  
Sandy Hook Community Association





# Sechelt Groves Society

c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4

Email: [secheltgroves@eastlink.ca](mailto:secheltgroves@eastlink.ca)

Web Site: <http://secheltgroves.com>

Phone: 604-885-5766

Date: July 15, 2011

BY EMAIL

District of Sechelt

Attention: Deborah Flitton – Records Coordinator

Dear Ms. Flitton,

Thank you very much for your letter of July 12<sup>th</sup> confirming the District is absorbing the premium for the insurance placement on behalf of our Society. We have received a CTC of the documentation from Aon. This item is greatly appreciated and marks one more step of support from the District and the Ratepayers for our project.

Even as I write this letter our work party volunteers are making arrangements for tomorrow's work session – finishing off the placement of appropriate signage in the parking lot. This for the enjoyment of all Sechelters and visitors.

I am copying this letter by email to the District CAO and to the Mayor and Councillors – also by email.

Thank you again.

Yours,

Sechelt Groves Society

Per: **R.B. D'Arcy** (computer Signature)

President

Robert D'Arcy

---

From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>  
Sent: July-28-11 10:43 AM  
To: board@secheltgroves.com  
Subject: Groves IMPORTANT news  
Attachments: 1107GrovesExcelSheet.pdf

(copied to all board members)

Couple of items:

1. I am pleased to advise that we now have Charitable status with Revenue Canada so can issue tax receipts. A copy of the letter confirming is posted on the website. The effective date was set at May 16, 2011 so I have sent out by post mail receipts to all those who fit a policy I arbitrarily set – at least for now.
2. I have posted the policy on the website where appropriate and it reads:  
Tax deductible receipts are issued:  
a) for donations from members of \$10 or more over the membership fee  
b) to those not joining for \$10 or more  
If you think the policy should be changed please let me know. We cannot give receipts for just a membership.
3. One of the ways some of you got seduced to come on the board was with the promise we would not demand many meetings. Since there has only been an AGM I think we have fulfilled that promise. On the other hand once in awhile something comes up that needs a board response and so an email goes out. **If it asks for a response we need one.**
4. Some board members have still not responded to the email with the motion regarding the Lifetime donation and the plaque. I would like to have something from all members so that it is clearly a full consensus or not. If you are guilty please respond soonest.
5. I thought you might like an update on the financial statement and one is attached in PDF. It does not include a not yet deposited Gold Sponsor donation from Gray and Heather Waddell. Thanks you two – I have to get to the bank again. All members and the level of their membership are posted on the website.
6. Another Grant application went in the other day but it is one where we will not get word either way until probably October. Still it is big enough to cover all the remaining funds needed for the Handicap Trial if they grant us what I asked!
7. After this goes out I am preparing an email to all the members and few others announcing the tax receipt thing in hopes it might encourage a few more donations. You will get a copy of course.

Feedback welcomed.

Bob D'Arcy  
President, Sechelt Groves Society  
<http://secheltgroves.com>

SandyHooker

---

From: Sandy Hook <sandyhook@eastlink.ca>  
Sent: July-28-11 2:29 PM  
Subject: Sechelt Groves Society NEWS

**(This email was sent to all Sechelt Grove Society Members and we are sending it on to you (blind) for your information.)**

Hello all SGS members

Another update for you.

First, and most important, Revenue Canada has now granted us full Charity status with the ability to issue tax receipts for donations. If you have been holding back those thousands of dollars you want to donate – well, now you can do it and get a tax break to boot.<grin>

Donate enough and you can elevate to one of the special members levels and we now have one Lifetime, one Gold Sponsor and four Friend memberships.

The tax news came just Tuesday but it is backdated to May 16, 2011 so we have sent out tax receipts to all who are eligible going back to the near beginning. They are in the snail mail.

We cannot issue receipts for just a membership and to be practical we have adopted a policy:

Tax deductible receipts are issued:

- a) For donations from members of \$10 or more over the membership fee
- b) To those not joining for \$10 or more

REMEMBER you can even donate on line using almost any credit card. Just go to <http://secheltgroves.com/donate.html> or mail it in to:  
5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4.

In other news:

- The Handicap Trail fund is now up to \$6,200 but we need a lot more to do the job. More applications are in for grants. The route has been revised to assure a not more than 4% grade throughout and to be a bit more scenic. A route right into the Ancient Grove with a return loop is now possible.
- On the to-do list is probably expanding the parking lot some more. We will keep any expansion away from the nice bits. Many times, even in the rotten spring we have had, the current lot has been overfilled with cars parked every which way and across Sechelt Inlet Road.
- Thanks to DoS Parks and Public Works – Perry Schmidt – we were supplied with good signage for the parking lot and the work party has it all in place.
- The work party carries on improving all the trails. Thanks guys.

Remember visit the website often and regularly for the latest news. Seems there is almost always something new going on to report.

Cheers,  
Bob D'Arcy  
President

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Remember visit the website often and regularly for the latest news. Seems there is almost always something new going on to report.

Cheers,  
Bob D'Arcy  
President



File: ORCS 16660-01/General

August 5, 2011

Michael Davidson  
Hidden Grove Steering Committee  
5866 Deerhorn Drive  
Sechelt, British Columbia  
V0N 3A4

Dear Michael Davidson:

This letter authorizes your organization to remove the live trees requested for removal in your e-mail of 2011-08-04. You are also authorized to remove any danger trees within one and a half tree lengths from the trail. It is very important to balance the need for safety, habitat requirements, ecosystem diversity and other resource requirements on the landscape. With this in mind, please use your discretion in removing danger trees as snags and old trees are valuable on the landscape offering many features to an ecosystem. It is recommended that you employ the services of a certified wildlife tree assessor to determine which suspect trees require falling.



Timber harvested under this authority is not to be removed from the area. There is no requirement to scale nor pay stumpage on the timber harvested under this approval. Materials generated in the construction and maintenance of this trail may be utilized in trail development.

If you have any further questions please contact the undersigned at: phone 604 485-0726 fax 604 485-0799, or email [gerard.nachtegaele@gov.bc.ca](mailto:gerard.nachtegaele@gov.bc.ca)

Yours truly,

Gerard Nachtegaele  
Resource Technologist Tenures  
Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resources Operations  
Sunshine Coast District





# District of Sechelt

*"Heart of the Sunshine Coast"*

August 8, 2011

File No. 0110-06-2011

Sechelt Grove Society  
c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive  
Sechelt, BC  
V0N3A4

To Whom It May Concern

**Re: Sechelt Grove Society**

As Mayor, and on behalf of our Council and community, I am writing to encourage support for the work of the Sechelt Grove Society. This volunteer group has had great success in developing, maintaining and encouraging public access to the Sechelt Heritage Forest and Hidden Grove area. By working cooperatively with the District and seeking support from a variety of groups, the Society has enhanced access to these wonderful public assets.

Sechelt is committed to developing as an accessible and sustainable community. The ongoing workplan of the Society nicely dovetails with these goals, focusing on forest area access for those with mobility challenges and on public education about our forest environment. This work program and the Society's past accomplishments are good examples of the commitment of our local residents to do what they can to make their community a better place to live in or to visit.

In closing, I thank the Society for its contributions and for working with Sechelt as a community partner. I also encourage others to support this groups continued efforts.

Yours truly,

Darren Inkster,  
Mayor

## August 22, 2011 Update

| Things to Do  | Timing?   | Notes  |
|---|---|--|
| Handicap Trail  | No. 1 until we run out of money   |  |
| Fill holes made for trail dressing  | As can be done  |  |
| Major work on viewpoint: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The hard way up               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sign post needed near top to direct to alternate top or regular top</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Past the bench - the new way               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Serious safety issues                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Unclear route down or up - signage?</li> <li>ii. On proposed new route some sort of barrier to keep folks from falling over the side - think kids</li> <li>iii. Rock is tough go for many from level top to lower level where bench is</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> | Pretty high priority for work party jobs-safety concerns could lose us support and maybe a member<grin> |  |
| kiosk at entrance donated by West Coast Homes bench (from West Coast too) in kiosk with plaque  | Mid to late September follow-up   | Contact Lasser to follow-up. Can design signage and whatever AFTER installed   |
| Maps (close-up?) showing ongoing route at some intersections (I.E. #17) a discussed.  | Soon as OK  | One draws, the other laminates   |
| Consider maps having short note of length of time to walk each trail by colour code. (Frequent request of new visitors)   |   | Maybe when redrawing maps or replacing   |
| Update from Rick O'Neill – does he want anything in the Groves regarding amphibian preservation?  | Low   |  |
| Do we want to do anything about Rhodos and special growth patches for native species? Advise?   | Low   | Contact Sechelt Botanical Garden?  |
| Extended parking to right of entrance road in slots AND towards SI Road maybe   | To be reviewed in, say 2012, to see how busy  | See if SCCF can help as before   |
| Get on to bench selling program and how we might profit. Need to identify suitable sites – maybe max. 12  | So-so   | Might be good long term fund raiser for maintenance instead of for Handicap Trail  |
| SIB participation in anything: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Signage</li> <li>2. Naming trails (school has been asked)</li> <li>3. Event opening Handicap Trail or ?</li> </ol>   | In time to do any signage or invites  | Give thoughts and we review  |
| Signage overall <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Interpretive signage denoting specie or use of SIB name or ?</li> <li>b) Signs for points of special interest i) Lonely Giant – age, size in cubic meters, ? ii) Twister – same iii) Viewpoint – podium photo</li> </ol>  | Maybe spring 2012   | Tie in with SIB above too. Nancy D'Arcy interested in some sponsorship of specie signage with plaque to taxonomist late husband. |

|  |                  |                                  |
|--|------------------|----------------------------------|
| map with arrows pointing out sights (gravel pit, downtown, Vancouver Island, etc), iv) wetlands start of brook or amphibians or?                             |                  |                                  |
| Some sort of event at the HG to invite the world with ad in paper etc. Opening of Handicap trail may be best event<br>And have setup to collect money at it. | When it is ready | Needs lots of lead time planning |
| Ideas for including the SHF and HG formally into DoS as park OR get Part 56  |                  |                                  |

### **Funding for Handicap Trail Notes**

- We have submitted 8 applications for grants to date. 3 have been successful resulting in \$6,200, 2 have been declined, and 3 are outstanding –
- Federal Government of Seniors – probably not hear until early 2012
  - Federal Government for accessibility - probably not hear until early 2012
  - TD Bank Environment Fund – would hope to hear in late September
- We are looking at more places to apply all the time.

### **Memberships and other Fund sources**

A list of all members is on the website ( <http://secheltgroves.com> )with special recognition of those who have joined at “higher levels”. This has resulted in income not dedicated to the Handicap Trail (but could be used there) of just over \$3,000 to date. We welcome donations and members anytime!

### **Handicap Trail**

While the website gives detailed progress – a quick update is that the new route is laid out, the Fire Fighter volunteers have taken down most of the trees that needed to be for a clear path, the work party is starting on the rough clearing and will be steady at that over the next few weeks, the bobcat operator/owner is pretty well ready to start.



(This email to all members via a database email system)

Hi everybody,

It was time for some news anyway to just keep you up to date but there a couple of items that give me a good excuse to write.

The operations manager of the Sunshine Coast Community Forest, Mr. Dave Lasser, will be conducting one of their "Walks in the Woods" tours on **Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 10 AM starting out from the Hidden Grove Parking Lot**. This one will be of special note since it will specifically be targeted at reviewing the three cut blocks near to the Grove which are destined to be logged some day.

Block 009 is of particular interest as it is along the eastern edge of the Grove (near the green route on the maps). In discussions with the SCCF we have been assured of a line being used further out then the logging maps show so as to protect the Grove from blow down and anything unsightly along that green trail. Nevertheless this is your chance to check out the plans yourself and to quiz Mr. Lasser.

We encourage everyone who feels like a nice and educational walk to show up. The public is welcome so bring your friends too.

In other news, the machine will start working on the wheelchair access trail near the parking lot on Monday, the 26th. Our wonderful volunteers have done the preliminary clearing so that this could start on the new route.

Be sure and regularly check the website at <http://secheltgroves.com> for the latest news. Postings are made every few days.

Cheers,  
Bob D'Arcy  
Sechelt Groves Society  
President



# SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST

*Building Value For Our Community*

## DISCOVER THE SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST

The Community Forest sponsors  
"Walk in the Woods" tours to look at  
what's going on in our forest. The next  
scheduled date to mark in your calendar is:

**Saturday, Sept 24, 2011 at 10 am**

Review of our Blocks AN008,  
AN009 and AN10, Angus Creek

MEET AT THE HIDDEN GROVE PARKING LOT  
(SECHULT INLET ROAD) AT 10:00 AM

Suite 201-5606 Wharf Rd, P.O. Box 215, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0  
P 604-885-7809 • F 604-885-7859 • info1@SCCF.ca • www.sccf.ca  
Sunshine Coast Community Forest Operated by Sechelt Community Projects Inc.

081127006

### SEPTEMBER 24/11

About 16 folks turned out for the tour. Dave Lasser, Ops Manager of the SCCF lead the tour and was very good at explaining things along the way. Of particular interest to those of the Society was to get an idea or a commitment that some parts of Block A009 (See Map right) would not be logged to preserve the ambiance of the grove and to stop light pollution ruining the walking experience. Lasser reserved his position but this will be ironed out in the near future.





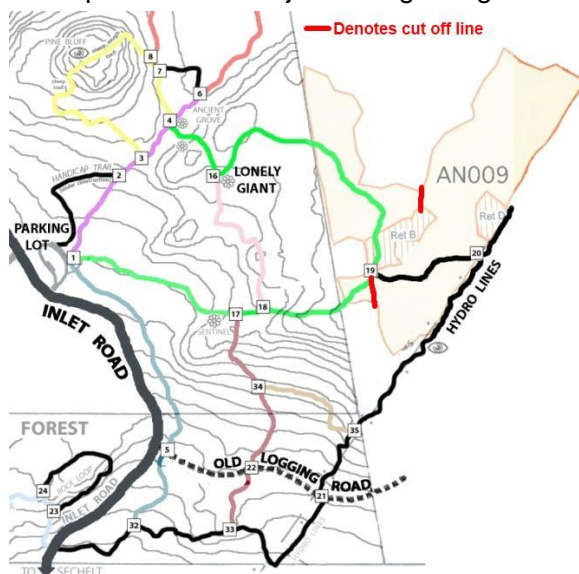
## SEPTEMBER 28TH AND AFTER

*(This message which was sent to all current members of the Society)*

### MORE OF HIDDEN GROVE AREA IS PROTECTED

You are all aware of the recent walk about in the Hidden Grove conducted by Community Forest Ops Manager Dave Lasser. It was primarily to review the cutting plans for what are called Blocks AN8, AN9 and AN10 all of which are close to the Grove above and out towards the power line sort of. 8 and 10 are really of no concern but AN9 is another story.

AN9 really borders on the north east side of the grove and some of our Green trail goes through it. We have long recognized that we might have to move the green trail since it is clearly outside the Grove and District boundaries. Our biggest concern was blow down and light pollution into the Grove by cutting too close and in particular near our post 19. On the map you can see the little square block that juts in. Light might well penetrate all the way to the Lonely Giant spoiling the abeyance forever.



On Wednesday the 28th we met with Dave. After a brief introduction, Dave pushed a map into the centre of the table and drew two lines on it. No logging within those. We were very pleasantly stunned.

You can see that the little bit past post 19 is saved. But so too is a very nice large chunk enclosing the green trail towards the north. The green trail can remain fully protected. It is like a good sized enlargement of the Grove. These areas had always been legal cut blocks even going back to the Interfor and Canfor days. Folks, this is a very generous concession and we can celebrate.

While it is expected that any heavy equipment can be brought in from the east over a long deactivated logging road it is not practical for the hauling out of the logs. Dave tried to get the now defunct Silverback group to allow a road from the power line over to Sechelt Inlet Road but with them in receivership no decision could be obtained. That leaves reactivating the old logging road through the lower part of the Sechelt Heritage Forest - down where the chain is for the former entrance to the Lion's Club tree farm.

Logging of all three blocks is expected to start towards the end of this month and will only go on for about 6 months - the winter months thank goodness. Dave has done this before and will do it in a most sensitive way taking care to disturb as little as possible on that short stretch of road. There will be no new roads. There will be a flagman when trucks are moving out so those coming down the hill curves will be safely controlled. At the end of the logging they will deactivate the road, restore it as best can be done and will even sow grasses to help Mother Nature take over again better than now. That will be the end of logging near the Grove for probably 100 years.

A letter from the Society of support for the road opening was requested and after a unanimous vote by your board such a letter (with lots of provisos!) was sent out.

See the letter - next page



# Sechelt Groves Society

c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4

Email: [secheltgroves@eastlink.ca](mailto:secheltgroves@eastlink.ca)

Web Site: <http://secheltgroves.com>

Phone: 604-885-5766

Date: October 3, 2011

Mr. David Lasser, Operations Manager  
Sechelt Community Projects Inc./Sunshine Cost Community Forest  
5606 Wharf Road, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0

Re: Hidden Grove/Sechelt Heritage Forest Road Opening

Dear Sir,

Further to our meeting of September 28<sup>th</sup>, we are pleased to advise that your adjustment of the boundaries of cut block AN9 adjacent to the Hidden Grove was very well received by the Board of the Society. Thank you for this important contribution to the protection of the recreation and scenic value of this popular area.

Further, they have, by a unanimous vote, (via email poll) authorized that this letter be forwarded supporting the temporary opening of the deactivated logging road on the east side of Sechelt Inlet Road in the Sechelt Heritage Forest. The road currently has a chain across it.

We understand that the road will only be open for approximately 6 months and in a most sensitive way with: minimal disruption of the natural amenities; no new roads; flag service for safety and, upon deactivation, will be restored as best as can be reasonably done, including removal of any culverts and seeding of the road bed.

You may, of course, copy this letter to anyone you deem might be helpful in your pursuit of logging plans, as agreed, near the Hidden Grove. For the information of any such recipients some background might be helpful:

With respect to the Sechelt Heritage Forest, it was members of the local Sandy Hook community who were instrumental in having the Forest protected under Section 56. For over 12 years the Society and its predecessor, a committee of the Association, has been officially designated by the District of Sechelt Council and Parks Department as stewards of the Forest – maintaining trails and clearing hazards with volunteers from the community. The Society has a special interest in the protection of the Forest and is sensitive to requests such as this one for reopening a road. The District pays for appropriate insurance for the Society. The arrangement for the Heritage Forest has been continued for the Hidden Grove with the sponsorship and support of the Community Forest and the District of Sechelt.

We wish you every success in your planned logging venture near “our” Groves.

Yours truly,  
R. B. D’Arcy (computer signature)  
Robert B. D’Arcy  
President

**Support the Society - Become a Member - Donate - All Online**

Robert D'Arcy

---

From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>  
Sent: October-01-11 2:21 PM  
To: Jason Herz  
Subject: SCCA and Hidden Grove  
Attachments: 110928ToBoardRe009.jpg

---

From: Robert D'Arcy [<mailto:rdarcy@dccnet.com>]  
Sent: September-30-11 2:28 PM  
To: GrovesBoard  
Subject: Board Members-Hidden Grove-REPLY Please

(Sent to just the SGS Board – sorry it's so long but...)

Hello Board Members,

There has been a fresh development and we need you to give us your support for something (or rejection). It's a good news thing. You may want to print out the attached map for reference.

You are all aware of the recent walk about in the Hidden Grove conducted by Community Forest Ops Manager Dave Lasser. It was primarily to review the cutting plans for what are called Blocks AN8, AN9 and AN10 all of which are close to the Grove above and out towards the power line sort of. 8 and 10 are really of no concern but AN9 is another story.

AN9 really borders on the north east side of the grove and some of our Green trail goes through it. We have long recognized that we might have to move the green trail since it is clearly outside the Grove boundaries. Our biggest concern was blow down and light pollution into the Grove by cutting too close and in particular near our post 19. You can see the little square block that juts in. Light might well penetrate all the way to the Lonely Giant spoiling the abeyance forever.

During the tour Dave gave no real clue what his thoughts were for this logging. On Wednesday we met with Dave prepared for battle. We were aware he might want support for opening up a road in the Heritage Forest and hoped we might get something if we supported that. We did not get a chance to play our card. After a brief introduction, Dave pushed a map into the centre of the table and drew two lines on it. No logging within those. We were very pleasantly stunned.

You can see that the little bit past post 19 is saved. But so too is a very nice large chunk enclosing the green trail towards the north. The green trail can remain fully protected. It is like an enlargement of the Grove. Folks this is a very generous concession and we can celebrate.

While it is expected that any heavy equipment can be brought in from the east over a long deactivated logging road it is not practical for the hauling out of the logs. Dave tried to get the now defunct Silverback group to allow a road from the power line over to Sechelt Inlet Road but in receivership no decision could be obtained. That leaves reactivating the old logging road through the lower part of the Sechelt Heritage Forest – down where the chain is for the former entrance to the Lion's Club tree farm.

Logging of all three blocks is expected to start towards the end of this month and will only go on for about 6 months – the winter months thank goodness. Dave has done this before and will do it in a most sensitive way taking care to disturb as little as possible on that short stretch of road. There will be no new roads. There will be a flagman when trucks are moving out so those coming down the hill curves will be safely controlled. At the

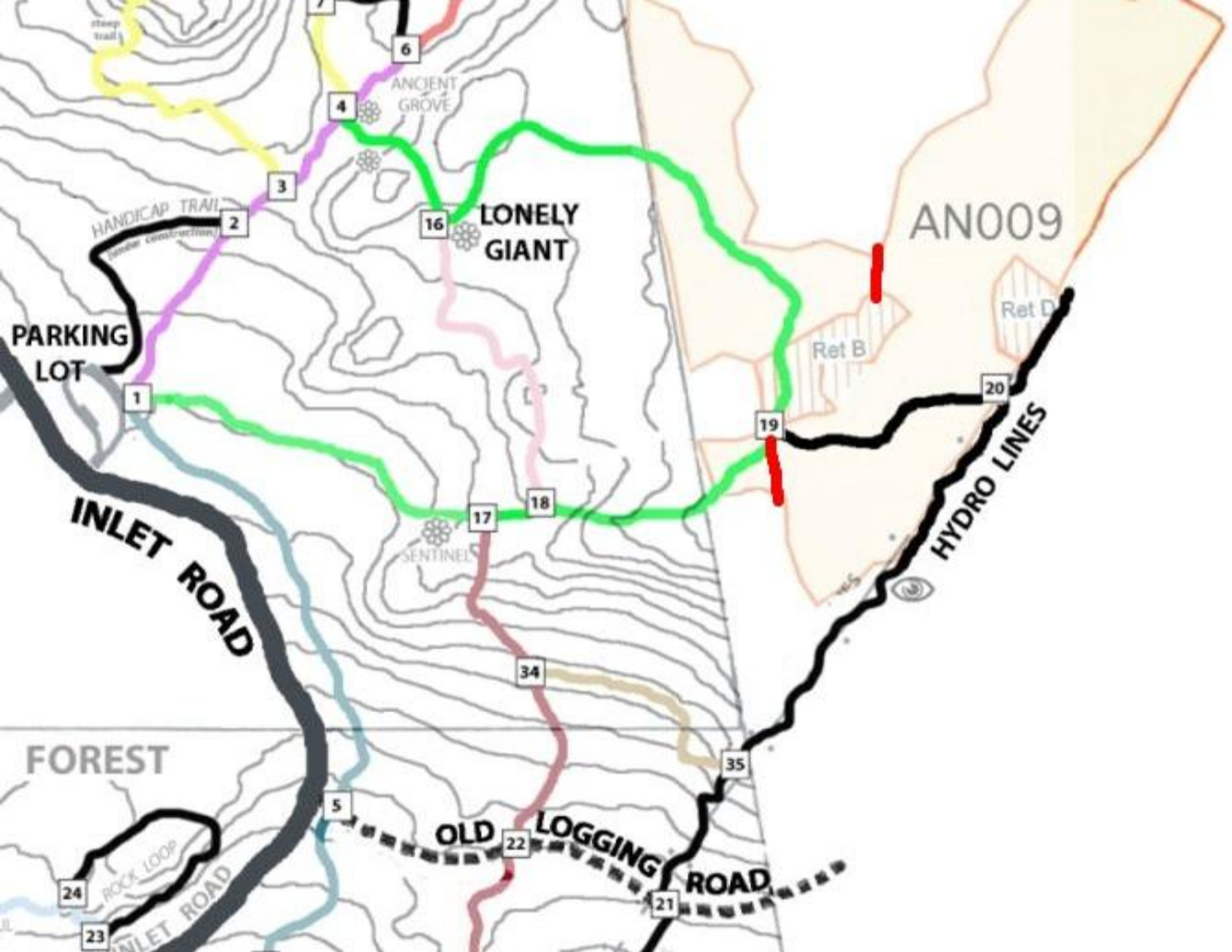
end of the 6 months they will deactivate the road, restore it as best can be done and will even sow grasses to help Mother Nature take over again better than now. That will be the end of logging near the Grove for probably 100 years.

Dave would like/needs a letter from us supporting the opening of the road as the provincial government can be a bit testy about Heritage Forest being messed with. We agreed that we would go to the board – you guys – and seek permission to send such a letter. That is what this email is all about. Are you Ok with us writing a letter? I would author it but it would be vetted by Michael Davidson. It needs to go out as soon as practical in the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Once we have your response we will be sending an update to the membership as well and doing something on the website.

**PLEASE REPLY AS SOON AS YOU CAN.** (Better an email vote than having to call a meeting, eh!)

Bob D'Arcy  
President, Sechelt Groves Society  
<http://secheltgroves.com>





Robert D'Arcy

---

From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>  
Sent: September-30-11 2:28 PM  
To: GrovesBoard  
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AN9 really borders on the north east side of the grove and some of our Green trail goes through it. We have long recognized that we might have to move the green trail since it is clearly outside the Grove boundaries. Our biggest concern was blow down and light pollution into the Grove by cutting too close and in particular near our post 19. You can see the little square block that juts in. Light might well penetrate all the way to the Lonely Giant spoiling the abeyance forever.

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While it is expected that any heavy equipment can be brought in from the east over a long deactivated logging road it is not practical for the hauling out of the logs. Dave tried to get the now defunct Silverback group to allow a road from the power line over to Sechelt Inlet Road but in receivership no decision could be obtained. That leaves reactivating the old logging road through the lower part of the Sechelt Heritage Forest – down where the chain is for the former entrance to the Lion's Club tree farm.

Logging of all three blocks is expected to start towards the end of this month and will only go on for about 6 months – the winter months thank goodness. Dave has done this before and will do it in a most sensitive way taking care to disturb as little as possible on that short stretch of road. There will be no new roads. There will be a flagman when trucks are moving out so those coming down the hill curves will be safely controlled. At the end of the 6 months they will deactivate the road, restore it as best can be done and will even sow grasses to help Mother Nature take over again better than now. That will be the end of logging near the Grove for probably 100 years.

Dave would like/needs a letter from us supporting the opening of the road as the provincial government can be a bit testy about Heritage Forest being messed with. We agreed that we would go to the board – you guys –



and seek permission to send such a letter. That is what this email is all about. Are you Ok with us writing a letter? I would author it but it would be vetted by Michael Davidson. It needs to go out as soon as practical in the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Once we have your response we will be sending an update to the membership as well and doing something on the website.

**PLEASE REPLY AS SOON AS YOU CAN.** (Better an email vote than having to call a meeting, eh!)

Bob D'Arcy  
President, Sechelt Groves Society  
<http://secheltgroves.com>

(A database generated email to members and some others)

You may want to open the attached map for reference.

Hello again to all Sechelt Groves Society supporters,

### **MORE OF HIDDEN GROVE AREA IS PROTECTED**

You are all aware of the recent walk about in the Hidden Grove conducted by Community Forest Ops Manager Dave Lasser. It was primarily to review the cutting plans for what are called Blocks AN8, AN9 and AN10 all of which are close to the Grove above and out towards the power line sort of. 8 and 10 are really of no concern but AN9 is another story.

AN9 really borders on the north east side of the grove and some of our Green trail goes through it. We have long recognized that we might have to move the green trail since it is clearly outside the Grove and District boundaries. Our biggest concern was blow down and light pollution into the Grove by cutting too close and in particular near our post 19. On the map you can see the little square block that juts in. Light might well penetrate all the way to the Lonely Giant spoiling the abeyance forever.

On Wednesday the 28th we met with Dave. After a brief introduction, Dave pushed a map into the centre of the table and drew two lines on it. No logging within those. We were very pleasantly stunned.

You can see that the little bit past post 19 is saved. But so too is a very nice large chunk enclosing the green trail towards the north. The green trail can remain fully protected. It is like a good sized enlargement of the Grove. These areas had always been legal cut blocks even going back to the Interfor and Canfor days. Folks, this is a very generous concession and we can celebrate.

While it is expected that any heavy equipment can be brought in from the east over a long deactivated logging road it is not practical for the hauling out of the logs. Dave tried to get the now defunct Silverback group to allow a road from the power line over to Sechelt Inlet Road but with them in receivership no decision could be obtained. That leaves reactivating the old logging road through the lower part of the Sechelt Heritage Forest – down where the chain is for the former entrance to the Lion's Club tree farm.

Logging of all three blocks is expected to start towards the end of this month and will only go on for about 6 months – the winter months thank goodness. Dave has done this before and will do it in a most sensitive way taking care to disturb as little as possible on that short stretch of road. There will be no new roads. There will be a flagman when trucks are moving out so those coming down the hill curves will be safely controlled. At the end of the logging they will deactivate the road, restore it as best can be done and will even sow grasses to help Mother Nature take over again better than now. That will be the end of logging near the Grove for probably 100 years.

A letter from the Society of support for the road opening was requested and after a unanimous vote by your board such a letter (with lots of provisos!) was sent out today.

### **THE HANDICAP TRAIL**

You should go look. A big chunk of the bobcat work is done and we lucked out. Large deposits of good native soil were found on the route and we MAY be able to get by with just compacting the native soil then only adding a top layer of crusher dust - no coarse gravel needed. This would save huge amounts of costly material and the extensive labour to ferry it up the trail.

Donations continue to come in. Have you sent yours? Every bit helps.

Until the next big news,  
Bob D'Arcy  
President



# Sechelt Groves Society

c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4

Email: [secheltgroves@eastlink.ca](mailto:secheltgroves@eastlink.ca)

Web Site: <http://secheltgroves.com>

Phone: 604-885-5766

Date: October 3, 2011

Mr. David Lasser, Operations Manager  
Sechelt Community Projects Inc./Sunshine Cost Community Forest  
5606 Wharf Road, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0

Re: Hidden Grove/Sechelt Heritage Forest Road Opening

Dear Sir,

Further to our meeting of September 28<sup>th</sup>, we are pleased to advise that your adjustment of the boundaries of cut block AN9 adjacent to the Hidden Grove was very well received by the Board of the Society. Thank you for this important contribution to the protection of the recreation and scenic value of this popular area.

Further, they have, by a unanimous vote, (via email poll) authorized that this letter be forwarded supporting the temporary opening of the deactivated logging road on the east side of Sechelt Inlet Road in the Sechelt Heritage Forest. The road currently has a chain across it.

We understand that the road will only be open for approximately 6 months and in a most sensitive way with: minimal disruption of the natural amenities; no new roads; flag service for safety and, upon deactivation, will be restored as best as can be reasonably done, including removal of any culverts and seeding of the road bed.

You may, of course, copy this letter to anyone you deem might be helpful in your pursuit of logging plans, as agreed, near the Hidden Grove. For the information of any such recipients some background might be helpful:

With respect to the Sechelt Heritage Forest, it was members of the local Sandy Hook community who were instrumental in having the Forest protected under Section 56. For over 12 years the Society and its predecessor, a committee of the Association, has been officially designated by the District of Sechelt Council and Parks Department as stewards of the Forest – maintaining trails and clearing hazards with volunteers from the community. The Society has a special interest in the protection of the Forest and is sensitive to requests such as this one for reopening a road. The District pays for appropriate insurance for the Society. The arrangement for the Heritage Forest has been continued for the Hidden Grove with the sponsorship and support of the Community Forest and the District of Sechelt.

We wish you every success in your planned logging venture near “our” Groves.

Yours truly,  
R. B. D’Arcy (computer signature)  
Robert B. D’Arcy  
President

**Support the Society - Become a Member - Donate - All Online**



# Sechelt Groves Society

c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4

Email: [secheltgroves@eastlink.ca](mailto:secheltgroves@eastlink.ca)

Web Site: <http://secheltgroves.com>

Phone: 604-885-5766

Date: October 4, 2011

Mr. David Lasser, Operation Manager  
Sechelt Community Projects Inc./Sunshine Cost Community Forest  
5606 Wharf Road, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0

Re: Hidden Grove/Sechelt Heritage Forest Road Opening

Dear Sir,

Further to our meeting of September 28<sup>th</sup>, I am pleased to advise that the proposal of additional protected areas adjacent to the Hidden Grove was very well received by the Board of the Society. Thank you.

Further, they have, by a unanimous vote, (via email poll) authorized that this letter be forwarded supporting your opening of the closed logging road on the east side of Sechelt Inlet Road in the Sechelt Heritage Forest. The road currently has a chain across it.

We understand that the road will only be open for approximately 6 months and in a most sensitive way with: minimal disruption of the natural amenities; no new roads; flag service for safety and upon deactivation will be restored as best as can be reasonably done including removal of any culverts and seeding of the road bed in wild grasses.

You may, of course, copy this letter to anyone you deem might be helpful in your pursuing your logging plans as agreed near the Hidden Grove. For the information of any such recipients some background might be helpful.

With respect to the Sechelt Heritage Forest it was members of the local Sandy Hook community who were instrumental in having the Forest protected under Part 56. For over 12 years the Society and its predecessor, a committee of the Association, has been officially designated by the District of Sechelt Council and Parks Department as stewards of the Forest – maintaining trails and clearing hazards utilizing volunteers from the community. The Society has a special interest in the protection of the Forest and thus is sensitive to requests such as this one for opening a road. The District pays for appropriate insurance for the Society. The arrangement for the Heritage Forest has been continued for the Hidden Grove with the sponsorship and support of the Community Forest and the District of Sechelt.

We wish you every success in your agreed, planned logging venture near “our” Groves.

Yours truly,

*R. B. D’Arcy* (computer signature)

Robert B. D’Arcy  
President

**Support the Society - Become a Member - Donate - All Online**

## Robert D'Arcy

---

**From:** FriendsOfTheEnvironment, TD [td.friendsoftheenvironment@td.com]  
**Sent:** October-13-11 11:24 AM  
**To:** 'rdarcy@dccnet.com'  
**Subject:** Your Application to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation / Votre demande à la Fondation TD des amis de l'environnement

Dear Mr. Robert D'Arcy,

Re: Building and maintaining high standard natural trails in a varied specie and old growth area and currently a Handicap Trail for wheel chair access

Thank you for your application to the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF).

Your submission has been reviewed by the 00116 Vancouver Chapter Advisory Board and I am pleased to inform you that your request has been approved in the amount of \$2,000.00.

TO RECEIVE YOUR FUNDS:

STEP ONE: scan a copy of a void cheque from your organization and email it to us as an attachment to: [tdfef@td.com](mailto:tdfef@td.com) <[mail to: tdfef@td.com](mailto:tdfef@td.com)>

If you prefer, you can fax us a copy of a void cheque to 416 308 5162

STEP TWO: In your email or fax, please be sure to indicate the following information to avoid funding delays:

The full name of your organization

The name of the chapter that you applied to The first and last name of the primary applicant of the application The amount of the grant awarded to you

STEP THREE: Wait for the grant to arrive! You can expect to receive your funds via direct deposit within 7-10 business days of receipt of the void cheque.

Please note, we require a void cheque from all approved applicants, regardless of whether we have account information on file from a previous grant. This is required for audit purposes, and we appreciate your cooperation.

All information must be received in 60 days of receipt of this email. In the event that this information is not received within 60 days, your application will be declined, and you can resubmit your application 12 months from your original application date.

All funds must be disbursed within 12 months from the date of this email. On completion of your project, unused funds must be reimbursed to TD FEF.

AFTER YOUR PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED:

We require an official receipt from your organization -- noting registered charity number (CRN) -- to complete our audit requirements. Please send your charitable tax receipt to:

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation  
TD Tower, 66 Wellington St. W. --17th Flr.  
Toronto, ON, M5K 1A2

For questions regarding fund transfers and tax receipts, please contact us directly. For other inquiries, please contact your local TD FEF Regional Manager: ([www.tdfef.com/contact\\_us.jsp](http://www.tdfef.com/contact_us.jsp))

Sincerely,

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF)

Email: [tdfef@td.com](mailto:tdfef@td.com)

File : 16660-50/Hidden Grove

Date: November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011

Michael Davidson  
Hidden Grove Steering Committee  
5866 Deerhorn Drive,  
Sechelt BC V0N 3A4

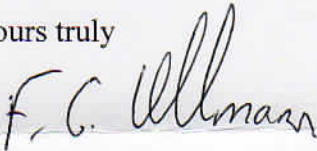
Dear Michael Davidson:

Further to your application of May 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 to construct and maintain trails in the "Hidden Grove" portion of the Sechelt Community Forest, authority under section 57 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* is hereby granted under the following conditions.

- 1) The trail is constructed and maintained minimize erosion resulting from trail use.
- 2) The trail is open to the public, and there are no restrictions on use of the trail, other than motorised use in environmentally inappropriate areas.
- 3) There is no restriction on other resource users, such as forest harvesting, inherent in this authority.
- 4) Any tree cut as a result of the trail or parking lot construction remain the property of the Crown and may only be disposed of through the authorisation of the Community Forest and all the authorisations required under that tenure.

This authorisation is restricted to those trails identified in the application of May 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 as indicated on the maps submitted with that application.

Yours truly



Frank Ullmann  
Recreation Officer  
South Coast District

cc. MoFR Sunshine Coast Forest District Manager



SMALL WORLD EXCAVATING

6116 HARBOUR WAY  
SECHELT, B.C  
V0N 3A5

Tel: 604-885-7906

Email: Jason.herz@gmail.com

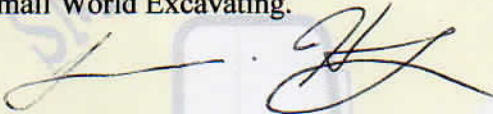
Dear Hidden Grove Society.

It has been a great pleasure to work with you in the creation of the Handicap Access Trail into the Big Tree area of Hidden Grove. I look forward to seeing the completed trail in the near future. If I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at any time. It is a privilege to participate in projects with significant community benefit. Below is the total machine and man hours involved and the amount I will be billing and the amount I will consider as a donation.

If you have any questions please contact me at your convenience.

All the best in your project.

Jason Herz  
Small World Excavating.



|                        |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Excavator Hours        | 75 hours @ \$40.00/hr  | \$3000.00              |
| Operator/Labour Hours  | 110 hours @ \$30.00/hr | \$3300.00              |
| Hauling Logs           | 2hrs@ \$70/hr          | \$140.00               |
| One Haul In            |                        | \$70.00                |
|                        | Total                  | \$6510.00              |
| Amount Billed          | 75 hours @ \$50/hr     | \$3750.00 + HST @ 12 % |
| Amount Donated in Kind |                        | \$2760.00              |



# Sechelt Groves Society

c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4

Email: [secheltgroves@eastlink.ca](mailto:secheltgroves@eastlink.ca)

Web Site: <http://secheltgroves.com>

Phone: 604-885-5766

Date: December 14, 2011

District of Sechelt  
P.O. Box 129  
5797 Cowrie Street, 2nd Floor  
Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0  
Attention: Chief Financial Officer

Grant in Aid Report

Dear Ms. DeBucy,

Mayor Inkster's letter of June 9, 2011 awarding the Society a grant of \$1,000 also requested a short report on how the funds were used. It seems especially timely to submit this report while at the same time enclosing our application for 2012.

While the grant allowed was not restricted in its use in the covering letter we elected to segregate the funds to the one project – The Handicap Trail in the Hidden Grove and this indeed was the basis on which we applied for a grant in January, 2011.

To date the following work has been successfully completed on the project:

- A resurvey and rerouting of the trail engaging professional help who kindly donated their time
- Rough clearing of the entire route by our volunteers over several months
- A local operator provided himself and his special machine to further clear and grade the entire route to the required specifications of not less than 5 feet wide with 2 foot shoulders and not more than a 4% grade throughout.
- We are now awaiting the availability of a special loading machine that can carry the crusher dust up the prepared trail and dump it a cubic meter at a time. We are getting this machine at cost based on us waiting for periods when it is not needed by the owner for his commercial activity. We are assured that this work can proceed early in the new year to be followed by compaction of the material.
- We have had a major bit of good fortune. Our original estimates to build the Trail envisaged the need for many tons of gravel being laid down as a base before the application of the finishing crusher dust. Instead we have found (or rather the machine operator found) a base of sandy material that contains very little organic matter and is suitable for the base of the Trail without the gravel. This has allowed for major changes in the budget and correction of underestimates in other areas without jeopardizing the project.
- We are planning on an official opening ceremony in April of 2012 and, of course, the District will be advised and invited appropriately.

**Support the Society - Become a Member - Donate - All Online**

Our experience with this trail had led us to look at a second wheelchair accessible trail project and it will be started as funds become available.

We are very appreciative of the support of the District of Sechelt on this project and look forward to moving on together with new initiatives for this wonderful area of the District.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

Bob D'Arcy  
President.

# Sechelt Grove Society Hidden Grove Handicap Trail Phase One Final Report



Project Volunteer Coordinator:  
Michael Davidson

Report By: Robert D'Arcy  
President  
Sechelt Grove Society  
c/o 5866 Deerhorn Drive,  
Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4  
Ph: 604-885-5766  
Email: [Mail@secheltgroves.com](mailto:Mail@secheltgroves.com)  
Website: <http://secheltgroves.com/>



## Sechelt Groves Society Final Report for Donors

### Completion Report written for all major donors to the project. May 16, 2012

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

The objective of this project was to build an accessible trail system for those with mobility issues to experience wilderness values in a very special preserved medium and old growth forest.

The Hidden Grove and Sechelt Heritage Forest are both under special mandate from the District of Sechelt and the Sunshine Coast Community Forest to develop and maintain a network of natural trails in the two forest areas. This responsibility has been discharged by volunteers for nearly eleven years primarily from the Sandy Hook community on the east side of Sechelt Inlet and in the District. Most of the volunteers are seniors 60 years old or more who have dedicated time to this project.

It was clear early on that the segment of the population who were confined to wheelchairs or who needed other aids to navigate in the forest were not able to enjoy the wonders of the Hidden Grove and its most lovely place, the Ancient Grove.

The Society undertook to identify if proper accessibility trails might be built and to begin planning for any construction. Two routes were identified and it was decided to concentrate on only one at the start. It would be a challenge to raise even enough funds for one trail and also there was a caution not to wear out the volunteers with too ambitious a schedule.

The objective therefore became the funding and construction of a Phase One accessibility trail to a standard approved by the accessibility committee of the District of Sechelt and penetrating as far as the Ancient Grove. This report tells the tale of the trail.

#### **PROJECT INITIATION:**

Before starting the Society Board decided that there must be an indication of sufficient funds to at least make a worthwhile start on the project. The Society had in hand some membership fees and donations to the general trail work of the Society and these are needed to maintain the usual day to day work.

Grant and other applications were sent out. In May, 2011 a grant of \$3000 was confirmed from the BC ReHab Foundation. In June the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation confirmed funds. A Grant-in Aid from the District of Sechelt was received and although it was not dedicated to the Handicap Trail the Board elected to consider those funds part until additional funds were received. There was now enough in hand to begin some work. Additional funds followed from TD Friends of the Environment and the Island Coastal Economic Trust.

**June, 2011** - Experts in the field were called in and after considerable surveying and assessment a route was chosen and flagged.



## Sechelt Groves Society Final Report for Donors

### STAGE ONE –Preparation of route

**August 5/11** - Provincial approval to take down the trees as needed on the new route was formally received



**August 9, 2011** – Ministry of Forest Fire Suppression crew provided tree clearing for Handicap Trail as a training and volunteer exercise.

**August 31, 2011** - Basic hand clearing of Trail by volunteers started near the parking area

**September 19, 2011** - Big Day - Machine work starts on the Trail using special Bobcat provided at a very special rate.



**October 21, 2011** - The machine gets to the end to the pad for wheelchair turn around. On way out it will smooth trail. Next is compressing and crusher dust hauled in and compressed - lots of work.

### STAGE TWO – Hauling in and spreading and compressing Crusher Dust

**January/12** - Special machine is to arrive that can haul the crusher dust and spread it on the new trail but it turns out to be defective and an alternate must be arranged.

**Feb 7/12** – A wheeled Bobcat arrives in the afternoon but over the next few days it is found to dig serious ruts in the route that will require a lot of work to repair.

**Feb 11/12** - More expensive tracked Bobcat is brought in and the workparty begins work in earnest to fill ruts and distribute crusher dust.

## Sechelt Groves Society Final Report for Donors

**Feb. 27/12** - Work on hold pending replacement machine but over 70% done. It looks like about 5 days or so to finish trail hauling and spreading.

**March 24/12** - Finally back to work with the distribution of the crusher dust with the tracked machine over a 2 day period. Then the gang starts spreading and compressing it to finish the trail.

**MARCH 26-28** - The last of the crusher dust is spread and the Trail is essentially finished. There is some dressing up and some final compacting to go.

**April** - will be a cleaning up some of the holes and disturbances along the Trail so it all looks better. A re-racking as weather allows and prep for opening.



The first load at the end of the trail.



The expensive but good machine



Just one shot of some of the wonderful volunteers at work. Spreading and smoothing.



## Sechelt Groves Society Final Report for Donors



The wonderful last day of smoothing and compacting the start of the Trail.



The start of the Trail as seen from the parking lot.  
Signage and some finishing touches to go.



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The Display Kiosk to hold a large sign listing donors to the project that will be put in place soonest after the Official Trail Opening – depending on volunteer time allotments.

### **OFFICIAL OPENING REPORT – Saturday, May12, 2012**

Over 70 people turned out for the Opening Ceremony and ribbon cutting for the New Trail. It all went wonderfully well.

Our website has much more detail including a complete album of photos but a few special ones:



The Trail beginning and the signs in place.



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Dave Lasser of the Sunshine Coast Community Forest announced that they are proceeding to apply for Section 56 protection for the Hidden Grove. This will give a virtually permanent protection to the area like the Sechelt Heritage Forest.

Mayor John Henderson spoke praising and thanking all the Society volunteers and the efforts made to create such a wonderful area. He couched his remarks both as a representative of the District of Sechelt but also as the official rep for the Island Coastal Economic Trust.



Bonnie Klein cut the ribbon in fine style and led the parade up the new trail.



Just some of the over 70 attendees listening to the presentation where every donor was thanked and given an opportunity to speak.



## SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED

### 1) Parking Lot Provisions

- a) Bus parking zone provided and marked for "Buses Only" so there is space for buses carrying those with wheelchairs or similar.
- b) Special Reserved Parking for Handicap vehicles. Two spaces have been set up close to start of the trail and "Handicap Only" signs mounted on posts

### 2) Signage marking Accessibility Trail

- a) Main Identification sign – Professionally made – "Take it Easy=ayat-tsut Trail"
- b) Donor Thank You Sign – Temporary laminated sign in place as volunteer working on large painted wood sign for kiosk.

### 3) Main Accessibility (Handicap) Trail Phase One Construction – **ALL COMPLETED**

### 4) Accessibility Trail Rest Spots and Rest Pull Off Points –

- a) Material has been donated for suitable benches and these are being built and assembled by one of our volunteers who is a retired carpenter.
- b) Material is in place for rest spots and will be worked upon in between other jobs over next year.

### 5) **GRAND OPENING AND CEREMONY** – took place May 12, 2012

#### **Employment from project:**

110 hours of machine operator time plus time at materials yards.

10.5 (approx.) truck driver time

Over 700 hours of volunteer time

Permanent Jobs: No permanent jobs unless, as expected, we count those increases in the hospitality sector.

#### **Economic Impacts:**

1. Already the number of visitors to the Hidden Grove has increased with a notable number of seniors and those with walkers or other walking issues.
2. The Hospitality Industry – B&Bs and motels have been looking forward to the opening and now secure in the knowledge that the Trail is ready for wheelchairs they will be promoting this site as another reason to visit the Sunshine Coast and targeting those with accessibility issues.
3. The total investment including "In Kind" and volunteer labour has priced out at \$28,572 for this Phase One. Over \$14,000 in actual cash has been spent on the project to date.

**NEXT PROJECT OF THIS TYPE:** - Phase Two of the Handicap Trail project with a Accessibility Trail running from the kiosk to a bluff in the west side of the Grove and back in a loop of about 450 metres. We have indications of a special donation that will cover most of the costs.

**LASTLY – A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL THEIR SUPPORT.**



## Sechelt Groves Society Final Report for Donors

### ADDENDUM

We felt you might wish to see some of the publicity about your contribution. While a sort of crude display we hope it shows that we have tried and are continuing to try to get our the word about your generosity.

**1. The Current Thank You Sign** – placed at the start of the trail but to be moved in a few days to the new kiosk. A volunteer is working on a permanent painted wood sign to be hung on chains within the kiosk.

*Thank You*

Shown in best fit & alphabetical order

*To All the very special Donors who contributed to the building of the "Take It Easy" – "ayat-tsui" Accessibility Trail and Kiosk with Grants, In Kind Donations, Advice and Volunteer Labour.*



- District of Sechelt:**
- Councils—past and present
  - Engineering & Public Works
  - Sustainability, Parks, Facilities
  - Finance



**AND some super individuals who put in the personal touch:**

- Michel Frenette -Senior park technician at SCRDP (Michel Parks & Outdoor Services)
- Rupert Clark
- Michael Davidson
- Bob D'Arcy
- Ken Hall
- Louis Janke
- Marilyn & Jay Jares
- Mike Lane
- Mike Sutcliffe
- Gray Waddell

Our Sincere apologies to anyone we left off this list. Just a dumb error by the poster maker.

**2. A copy of the introductory remarks** made by the Society president at the Opening Ceremony is available to read on line at

<http://secheltgroves.com/archives/2012/120512RBDOpeningRemarks.pdf>

## Sechelt Groves Society Final Report for Donors

3. A clipping from the local papers (Copy of PDF submission to avoid problems with the columns in the papers but it was printed as shown) – The Coast Report and The Local  
**(Headline) New Accessibility Trail to Open in Hidden Grove**

Another milestone was reached for the Hidden Grove recreation area and the Sechelt Groves Society with the completion of a new trail especially designed and built for those with mobility issues. The Trail is suitable for those with wheelchairs, walkers, strollers and anyone else that normally finds a rough, natural trail hard to navigate.

This Phase One of the accessibility trails is now named Take It Easy = ayat-tsut or “take it easy” in the Sechelt language, to honour the Sechelt Indian Band who were the first level of government to agree to the protection of the Hidden Grove.

Winding over 450 metres from the parking lot through some relatively new forest it finally arrives at the Ancient Grove where trees as old as 750 years proudly stand. The trail has a hard compacted surface and is at least five feet wide throughout. Maximum grades do not exceed accessibility standards of about 5%. It is a truly beautiful and easy trip. Pictures and detail may be seen at [www.secheltgroves.com](http://www.secheltgroves.com)

Almost all the labour for the trail construction was performed by the Society Trailbuilders, a dedicated group of volunteers, most of who reside in the Sandy Hook neighbourhood. This hard working team put in over 700 volunteer hours on this trail alone while at the same time maintaining and improving other trails in the Grove. Including the volunteer labour and “in kind” donations the total budget for the trail was in excess of \$28,000. The Society is now gearing up for Phase Two – an accessibility loop trail to run from the main entrance to the south western part of the Grove.

At a formal opening ceremony special thanks will given to all those who supported this project with funding and guidance including some major contributors: District of Sechelt, BC ReHab, Sunshine Coast Community Foundation, Island Coastal Economic Trust, TD Friends of the Environment, Small World Excavating, Lehigh Materials, Swanson’s Ready-Mix, West Coast Log Homes and, of course, the membership of the Sechelt Groves Society.

The opening ceremony will be held in the Hidden Grove on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. Mayor John Henderson has agreed to speak as have some representatives of the major donors. The public and especially those with mobility issues are very welcome and are encouraged to attend this important and satisfying event. We look forward to seeing you there.

Submitted – Sechelt Grove Society.



FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SECHELT GROVES SOCIETY  
Monday, May 9th, 2011  
Meeting of the Membership and Guests

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Pro Tem President, Bob D'Arcy

1) President introduced Head Table

Attendees were referred to the agenda handed out

2) Rules of Order were outlined by the President

3) President gave an introductory report outlining a brief history of the Society and why it was formed along with the overall goals of the Society as governed by the constitution.

4) President gave the report of the Nominating Committee:

a) The proposed list of the maximum 8 board members of the Society was circulated with the notice of meeting and is comprised of Bob D'Arcy, Michael Davidson, Gertrude Pacific, Gray Waddell, Rupert Clark, Michael Siddall, Douglas Smith, Mike Sutcliffe

b) Board Members will serve rotating two year terms

c) Officers will be elected by the Board Members in a subsequent meeting (within 10 Days)

d) In consultation with the President of the Sandy Hook Community Association, two (2) Board positions were offered to Board members of the SHCA in accordance with Bylaw 25 of the Society.

e) Nominations are not allowed from the floor

A MOTION to accept the above items was made by Rupert Clark, seconded by Betty Keller and passed unanimously.

5) Treasurer's report –

a) A pro tem financial report (on the back of each agenda handed out to all attendees) was read out

b) The fiscal year of the Society will be January 1 to December 31 of each year

A MOTION to accept the above items was made by Douglas Smith and seconded by Michael Siddall, passing unanimously.

6) Membership Report -

a) Total members paid up to date are: 29

b) MOTION:

For the calendar year of 2011 membership dues are \$10 for an individual for one calendar year, however provision is made for other levels of membership, notably:

i) Friend or Silver at \$50

ii) Sponsor or Gold at \$100

iii) Lifetime at \$1000

And members of the work party (as defined by M. Davidson) shall be entitled to a free 2011 membership but if they have paid their 2011 membership a credit shall be given towards the 2012 membership. Moved by Gray Waddell, seconded by Rupert Clark and passed unanimously

7) Planning Report (Michael Davidson) -

- a) Davidson offered a map showing many of the works to come and then commented on each:
    - i) The Handicap Trail that we are raising funds for may include a loop near the Ancient Grove.
    - ii) Four new trails that are currently waiting for Provincial approval.
  - b) Parking may need to be expanded along the entrance to the lot to address overflows already happening.
  - c) Negotiations are underway with the Community Forest to possibly build some interpretive trails leading out of the Hidden Groves to further their educational mandate.
  - d) There is concern regarding a proposed cut block (AN009) on the eastern boundary of Hidden Groves as this could negatively affect the walking experience and possibly leave trees within the Hidden Groves open to wind damage.
  - e) A new stone staircase has replaced the original scramble up to the Pine Bluff view point.
  - g) Looking to the District for some proper traffic signs for free or close to free.
- The report was received and some questions regarding the Community Forest input were fielded.

8) Open Discussion and Questions –

- a) The possibility of selling memorial benches for designated locations within the Hidden Groves/Sechelt Heritage Forest was discussed.
- b) Concern was raised over the possibility of Mountain Bikes using the trails. It was pointed out that neither they nor any motorized vehicles are permitted on the trails although there is currently no signage to that effect.

9) Adjournment -

At 7:55 a MOTION to adjourn was made by Gray Waddell, seconded by Michael Siddall and passed unanimously.