

January 8, 2012 - To All

Hello

It is a new year and time for membership renewals. That's right. We only received one life membership so all the rest come up again now!

We have nearly funded the first wheelchair access trail but there are lots of other expenses to consider. For example:

- We are receiving by donation the main frame of a kiosk to go at the entrance to hold signage and welcome visitors BUT we have to fund the finishing framing, the signage and the concrete for the base of the posts.
- Many signs will need renewing
- Just running maintenance on tools costs e.g. overhaul a chain saw \$270.

If you or your friends use and enjoy the Groves please take out a 2012 membership. It is easy to do online at <http://secheltgroves.com/join.html> **OR** mail in the attached form.

NEWS

1. In the next few weeks the crusher dust will be going down on the wheelchair trail. One member has kindly allowed us to park the special hauling machine on her nearby property while this work goes on over many days. We plan on an official opening in April but we will advise more on that later.
2. If you visited recently you will see some signs asking you to exercise caution on the east side of the Grove as there is logging commencing outside the Grove near the Green Trail edge. Special thanks to the Sechelt Community Forest for moving back the cutting lines to give the Hidden Grove an even larger area of protected forest.
3. The workparty has finished re-working the Green Trail with fill and surface material. Week after week of hard work but well worth it. Now, on to the next project.

REMEMBER – you can stay up to date by visiting the website. It is revised regularly.

Lastly, PLEASE renew your membership and pass on this email to others to remind them or suggest they join now.

Thank you very much.

Sechelt Groves Society
<http://secheltgroves.com>


SANDY HOOK

SCPI confirms no logging in Hidden Grove

CHRISTINE WOOD
Staff Writer

There is no logging going on in Hidden Grove, despite worries that were voiced by some community members this week.

The concern came as the Sunshine Coast Community Forest posted signs and started work on building a road nearby the popular network of walking trails in Sandy Hook.

"First of all, we are not logging in Hidden Grove. Let's put that to bed. I think people see a logging truck and think 'oh goodness' but that's not the case," said Sunshine Coast Community Projects Inc. (SCPI) chair Glen Bonderud.

SCPI oversees operations of the community forest. He said the logging will be done behind Hidden Grove and an old deactivated logging road, which is partially within the trail network, will be used to reach the area.

"Because it does go through that area, approvals were done on the basis that when we leave, everything is back to normal," Bonderud said, noting SCPI has talked with the Sechelt Groves Society and they are on board with the plan.

Society president Bob D'Arcy said the trail network is actually going to benefit from the roadwork in the end.

"The Community Forest met with us and we had a very, very good meeting with them and they've given us more protected

area as a result of their plans for the logging, so it's a very small concession in our view to let them drive a truck in and out and take the wood out. It's very amicable and very positive for the Hidden Grove," D'Arcy said.

Hidden Grove will have to close some trails during the logging activity to ensure safety, but D'Arcy said that in exchange they will get two to three more acres of land set aside for public use.

The group also expects to see improvement on the portion of roadway within the trail network once logging is complete.

"They are going to have enough chips that they will probably be able to chip the old road and seed it, so it'll end up being more Mother Nature than before. So it should be a net improvement when it's over," D'Arcy said.

Bonderud said work on the logging road is happening now and he expects falling to start in February, with logging to finish sometime in April.

He also said community members can expect to see five or six trucks a day coming and going from the site along Sechelt Inlet Road while logging is underway.

SCPI chose to log this location after agreeing not to log in Wilson Creek until after a watershed assessment can be done.

"As we're staying out of Wilson Creek until we get that assessment done and make sure everything's OK, we had to go somewhere else," Bonderud added.

(Sent Blind to all past and current members plus a couple of interested parties)

FIRST – Thank you, all those who have renewed their memberships in response to our appeal of January 8th. You can ignore part of this email with our gratitude. Jump down to the NEWS.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS – We see a full parking lot even on snowy days but we are not seeing a full membership roster. We closed out last year with 60 members and to date have only 21. Have you forgotten to renew? Have you forgotten how much you enjoy the Groves for yourself and your family or visitors?

Come on folks? It is not just the fees we need (although there are ongoing expenses always) – it is a good membership list so that we have impact when we go to those “governing” bodies for things: The BC Government, The SCRCD, The District of Sechelt Staff and Council, the Sechelt Heritage Forest and all those foundations we apply to.

You can easily pay with your credit card on line at <http://secheltgroves.com/join.html> or print out the attached form and mail it in (even drop off at the address shown)

Last on this subject for today – pass this email around to all your friends so that some who support the Groves but have not been members can join in too.

NEWS

You will see the thermometer is down off the Home webpage. Yes, based upon the best estimates of costs yet to come we have reached our goal to pay for the current Handicap Trail project. Thank you to everyone who joined in, donated and to the large charity foundations who heard our appeal.

The weather has slowed things a bit and we are still awaiting the arrival of a special machine for the installation of the crusher dust. We know the weather will get better and the machine is expected any day soon. With the dust spread and compressed we will have a wheelchair and stroller friendly trail into the Hidden Grove.

We plan on an official opening of the Trail in later April – need a nice day – and we hope to have another important good announcement to make at that time. We will keep you posted but keep it in mind and we will want a big crowd to welcome all the big wheels <grin> who will attend.

We are still getting calls concerning the opening of the old log road and the closed trails. We had hoped that the write-up on the website and the article in the Coast Reporter would have allayed many fears. It is all good news. We have gained more land for the Hidden Grove expanding the eastern boundary and saving us rerouting the Green Trail. When the logging in the power line area is done the old road will be restored to nature better than before and there won't be any logging in there for about 100 years – if then. We are planning on an AGM in March or April but more on this later. Have to have one for all the legal reasons.

Of course, the workparty gang keep up their wonderful toil and we all send our special thanks out to them.

THAT'S ALL, FOLKS – Get those memberships in.

Sechelt Groves Society
<http://secheltgroves.com>

Robert D'Arcy

From: Sechelt Groves Society <secheltgroves@eastlink.ca>
Sent: February-17-12 9:11 AM
To: rdarcy@dccnet.com
Subject: Sechelt Groves Society AGM
Attachments: 2012AGMagenda1.pdf

(To all past and present members on record)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with the bylaws of the Sechelt Groves Society this is the official thirty day advance notice of the Annual General Meeting for the 2012 year.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 27th, 2012 at 7 PM in the Dr. Farish Room of the Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre, 5604 Trail Avenue, Sechelt, BC.

A preliminary agenda for the meeting is attached to this notice in PDF format and a final agenda will be provided at the start of the meeting.

We look forward to your attendance. Memberships will be available at the door.

On behalf of the Board,
Bob D'Arcy
President
February 17, 2012

ICET funds access trail

Mayor Phil Kent, the chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET), announced the funding approval of \$6,681 for the Sechelt Groves Society to develop a wheelchair accessible destination trail, in the Hidden Grove Forest, a preserved area of old growth forest in the District of Sechelt.

The total estimated cost for this initiative is \$27,000. Kent made the announcement on Monday afternoon.

The Hidden Grove area has evolved to the top of the promoted trail areas on the Sunshine Coast. Located only four km from Porpoise Bay Provincial Park, Hidden Grove is a prime destination for travellers.

The purpose of this unique trail project is to provide spectacular old-growth forest access to people with mobility challenges and special needs.

"This project will provide recreation opportunities to address the shortfall in outdoor recreation facilities for people with disabilities," said Kent in a news release. "This trail will draw these visitors to the Sechelt area and build on the area's existing tourism and outdoor recreation infrastructure. This is consistent with the Trust's mission to diversify the regional

economy and provide the building blocks for sustainable economic development.

The public can follow project progress and see virtual tours of the grove at www.secheltgroves.com.

"We are thrilled with the financial support we have received," added society president Bob D'Arcy. "This type of regional collaboration between funders, the business community and volunteers has moved this trail project from the realm of possibility to reality. Our small, non-profit society is pleased to see that our work will not only enhance recreational opportunities for the region, but will also have an impact on the regional tourism economy."

ICET was established in February 2006 under an act of the Province of British Columbia. It provided a \$50-million endowment that is managed by an independent board of directors comprised of 13 members — eight mayors and five provincial appointees from the region encompassing all regional districts and municipalities on Vancouver Island north of the Malahat as well as the Powell River and Sunshine Coast regional districts.

— Submitted

DETAILED BUDGET FOR partial HANDICAP TRAIL EXCLUDING EXTENSION (480 METERS)
(Includes Everything as part of cost)

DONE

Trail Rough-in by machine	Hours	Rate	Cost	HST	Total
Billing at Reduced Rate	75	\$50.00	\$3,750.00	\$450.00	\$4,200.00
In Kind Donation	0	\$0.00	\$2,760.00		\$2,760.00
TOTAL					\$ 6,960.00
Volunteer Work	142.5	\$ 15.00	\$ 2,137.50		\$ 2,137.50
Pro Fees	10	\$ 35.00	\$ 350.00		\$ 350.00
	14	\$ 30.00	\$ 420.00		\$ 420.00
					\$ 9,867.50

TO GO

Crusher Dust per ton	61	\$ 13.60	\$ 829.60	\$ 99.55	\$ 929.15
In Kind Donation	61	\$ 16.00	\$ 976.00	\$ 117.12	\$ 1,093.12
In Kind Donation	61	\$ 2.40	\$ 146.40	\$ 17.57	\$ 163.97
Trucking - per Load	4	\$ 80.75	\$ 323.00	\$ 38.76	\$ 361.76
In Kind Donation	4	\$ 95.00	\$ 380.00	\$ 45.60	\$ 425.60
In Kind Donation	4	\$ 14.25	\$ 57.00	\$ 6.84	\$ 63.84
Tracked dumper short term cost	0.3	\$ 500.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 140.00
Wheel Bobcat rental	1.0	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 560.00
Bobcat Delivery	2.0	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 14.40	\$ 134.40
Tracked Bobcat rental	2.0	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 2,240.00
Bobcat delivery	2.0	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 14.40	\$ 134.40
Tractor and trailer rental: per hour	10	\$ 25.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 280.00
Compactor Monthly Rental	1	\$ 578.00	\$ 578.00	\$ 69.36	\$ 647.36
Fuel for machines: per day	14	\$ 80.00	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 134.40	\$ 1,254.40
TOTAL					\$ 8,428.00
Volunteer Machine operator labour	108	\$ 15.00	\$ 1,620.00		
Volunteer Hand grading of trail:	24	\$ 15.00	\$ 360.00		
TOTAL					\$ 1,980.00
GRAND TOTAL					\$20,275.50

RESULTS

Grants and Income	
BC ReHab Foundation	\$3,000.00
SC Community foundation	\$2,200.00

District of Sechelt	\$1,000.00	
TD Friends of the Environment	\$2,000.00	
Island Coastal Trust - TO DATE PAID	\$2,466.88	
Island Coastal Trust 25% or maximum allowed OF TOTAL	\$2,602.00	<<CALCULATED TO COME
ACTUAL GRANTS->>>	\$13,268.88	
In Kind	\$4,506.53	
Volunteer Labour Portion	\$ 4,887.50	
TOTAL RAISED->>>>>		<u>\$22,662.90</u>
BALANCE TO RAISE		<u>-\$ 2,387.40</u>

Sechelt Groves Society

From: Rupert Clark <rupertcra@hotmail.com>
Sent: March-16-12 2:25 PM
To: Sechelt Groves Society
Subject: RE: Sechelt Groves News and Reminder

From: secheltgroves@eastlink.ca

Subject: Sechelt Groves News and Reminder
Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2012 10:24:26 -0700

(Sent to database of members, former members and a few extra) - apologies if you get this twice - finger trouble

First, a reminder that the Sechelt Groves Society Annual General Meeting is Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 PM at the Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre on Trail Avenue. Hope you have your calendar marked and we will see you there. SGS memberships available at the door.

The wheelchair access trail is about 70% done. It is wonderful! We need a break in the weather and need to get the machine back to finish the job. The hard target is the end of March.

This week the warning sign at the main entrance about logging will be coming down. This does not mean the logging is over but it is felt that the signs further on at the 'green' trail suffice.

On the subject of logging, starting sometime in the next few weeks and for about 2 months or so thereafter, logging trucks will be pulling onto Sechelt Inlet Road from the old logging road below the hill just before the Hidden Grove. There will be signage but please use caution coming down the hill as the sight line is restricted.

In April we hope to get a donated kiosk for the entrance area. It will shelter a bench and placards with maps and a list of donors to the Grove and the special trail.

We are pleased to advise that the "Ferry Ambassadors" have chosen Hidden Grove as one of the spots to tout to visitors on the ferries. The Ambassadors will be on a conducted tour on March 28th so they will have a firsthand experience to talk about.

MOST IMPORTANT – another date to note. We have chosen Saturday, May 12th as the day for the official ceremony to mark the opening and completion of the wheelchair trail, hopefully the installation of the kiosk and a couple of other great announcements. We are just in the planning stages right now but will be sending out lots of notice with full details. Mark your calendars to attend.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the Groves.

SECHELT GROVES SOCIETY

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Thank you for your support and enjoy the Groves.

SECHELT GROVES SOCIETY



SECHELT COMMUNITY PROJECTS INC.
dba Sunshine Coast Community Forest

Sechelt Indian Band
PO Box 740
Sechelt, B.C.
V0N 3A0

March 22, 2012

Attn: Chief and Council

Dear Chief Feschuk,

Re: Hidden Grove Status Change

Thank you for meeting with Bob D'Arcy, Michael Davidson and me on March 15, 2012 on short notice to discuss our proposal for Hidden Grove. As we outlined in our discussion with you, we are proposing, and requesting your support on, the following four issues:

1. The Community Forest intends to make application to the Ministry of Forests and Natural Resource Operations to have the status of Hidden Grove be formalized as a Section 56 recreation area, the same status as the Sechelt Heritage Forest which is immediately adjacent to, and to the south of, the Hidden Grove. Currently, the Grove has Section 57 status for some of the trails only, not the area as a whole. As we indicated to you, the Hidden Grove is located within the Community Forest tenure area, as well as being totally within the District of Sechelt municipal boundary, and we felt it was appropriate for the Community Forest to initiate this application for change of status. The Sechelt Groves Society (formerly Hidden Grove Society) fully supports this reclassification of the status of the Hidden Grove.
2. The Community Forest and Sechelt Groves Society would like to install some interpretive/information signage within Hidden Grove identifying different species of trees and shrubs using their common, Sechelt and Latin names. In addition, we would like to include information of what traditional uses the species were used for by the Sechelt Band, if you are willing to share that information with us.
3. The Sechelt Groves Society is going to have the official opening of the wheelchair accessible Handicap Trail on May 12, 2012. The Sechelt Groves Society has made an informal inquiry through Lenora Joe and your elders to rename the trail from the "Handicap Trail" to a Sechelt name. The name that is being suggested, "Take it Easy" (?áyát-tsut in Sechelt) was obtained from the book of the Sechelt language by Mr. Ron

Baumont. It was chosen because it was felt to be an appropriate name for the trail and would also be more easily pronounced by the public than some other potential choices. We are formally requesting your support for the naming of the trail to this new name. The plan would be to have both the Sechelt and English versions of the new name on the trail signs that have yet to be made.

4. The Sechelt Groves Society and the Community Forest would welcome the participation of the Sechelt Band in the opening ceremony for the Handicap Trail on May 12, 2012. The Band was a formal participant in the celebration when the Sechelt Groves Society took over as the caretaker of the Sechelt Heritage Forest on behalf of the District of Sechelt in 1998.

We wish to emphasize that it is our understanding that the Section 56 status we are seeking will not change the current rights of the Sechelt Band to carry out its cultural and heritage rights within the boundaries of the Hidden Grove. In our meeting with you we discussed the current practise of bark stripping and other Band activities which have occurred in both the Hidden Grove and the Sechelt Heritage Forest.

The next step in this process will be for the Community Forest to formally contact the District of Sechelt to obtain their support for this proposal as there are insurance issues that must be addressed by them. The final step will be to then make the formal application for Section 56 status to the MOF and NRO.

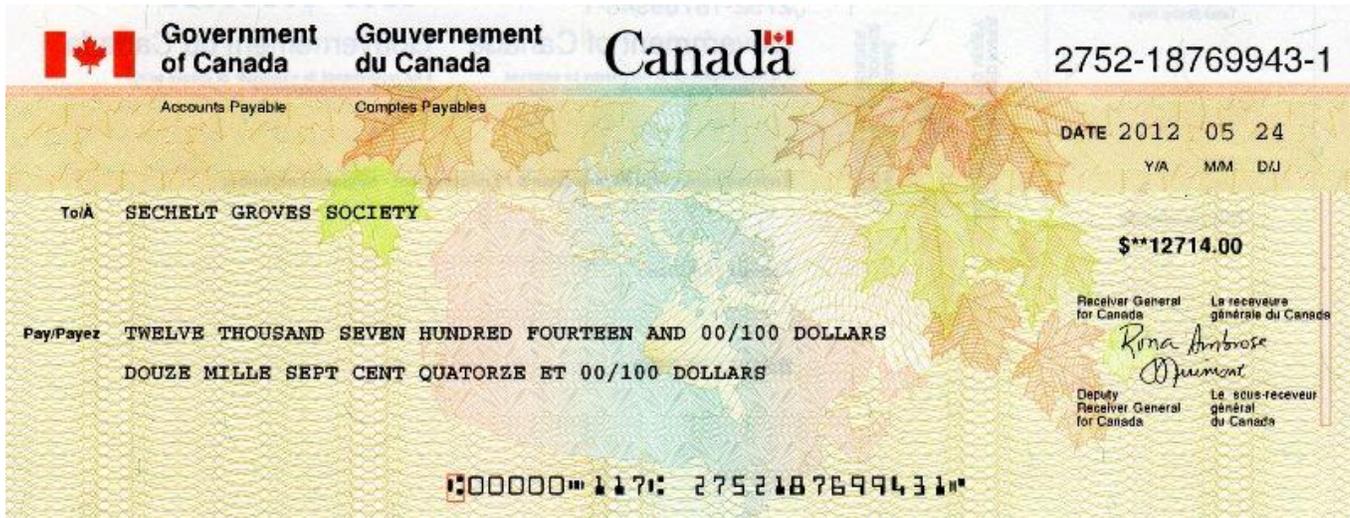
We look forward to your response to this request for your support, and we hope you will support this positive development in the community's recreation and outdoor education experiences for both residents of, and visitors to, the Sunshine Coast.

If you have any questions or need clarification of any of the points noted above, please contact me at dlasser@sccf.ca or by phone at 604-885-7809.

Yours truly
SECHELT COMMUNITY PROJECTS INC.

Dave Lasser, RPF
Operations Manager

xc- Bob D'Arcy
xc- Michael Davidson



Fri 23/03/2012 2:49 PM
Project Number 011078235
Good afternoon Mr. D'Arcy,

As per our telephone conversation, here is a confirmation that your application for a grant submitted under the Small Project Component of the Enabling Accessibility Fund has conditionally been approved by the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). Your organization will receive a total of \$12,714 in grant funding to assist in carrying out your project entitled: "Sechelt Groves Handicap Trail".

Please be reminded that you are not permitted to incur any costs related to the project activities for which you are seeking reimbursement from EAF until the condition is fulfilled and that an Agreement has been signed by a representative of HRSDC and is, therefore, in force.

I will keep in touch with you to finalize the process in order to get your project started as soon as possible. In the interim, do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have questions relating to your project with the project number in the subject line.

Please accept my very best wishes for every success as you undertake your project.

Sincerely, Yvonne

P/S.: Have a Great Weekend;

Yvonne Côté
Program Consultant/Consultante en programmes Bureau de la condition des personnes handicapées/Offices for Disability Issues

Robert D'Arcy

From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
Sent: March-24-12 4:04 PM
To: 'GrovesBoard (board@secheltgroves.com)'
Subject: Some More Good News

Contacts: GrovesBoard

(To SGS Board)

Some of you may be aware that the workparty guys like making accessibility trails so much that they see a place for a second one - from near the main entrance to the bluff (green route) and then back close along Sechelt Inlet Road. It is about the same length as the current trail under construction but I think much more level. It was a bit of a day dream with thoughts of pursuing it in maybe 2013. Well!

While I can go into more detail at the AGM I am pleased to advise that another of the grant applications (made last August - only the Feds could take so long!) came through yesterday and confirmed a grant of \$12,714.00. They advise we should have the cheque in 10 to 14 days. Michael Davidson is all fired up to make a start on about April 1 (a date required by the grant) and I thought the board should certainly be advised.

See you on Tuesday at the AGM.

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



Sechelt Groves Society

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

Email: secheltgroves@eastlink.ca

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

Phone: 604-885-5766

PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 7PM at the Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre

- 1) Welcome and Call to Order by President
 - a) INTRODUCTION of Head Table
- 2) Motion to adopt agenda
- 3) Motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Society – May 9, 2011 – posted on website at <http://secheltgroves.com/docs.html> and drop down list of 2011 documents.
- 4) Current Board of Directors was elected for a term of two years in 2011 and it is therefore declared that no motion in this regard is required at this meeting for this year.
- 5) President's Report
- 6) Treasurer's Report (Financial Statements were handed out to attendees upon their sign-in at the reception desk)
 - a) Membership Report
- 7) Reports on activities of the Society over past year:
 - a) Trail Building – Davidson
 - b) Work on Handicap Trail – Davidson
 - c) Other development or construction projects – Davidson
 - d) Fund Raising – D'Arcy
 - e) Work with Sechelt Community Forest and other senior organizations – D'Arcy
- 8) NEW Business
 - a) Plans for Official Opening ceremony for the Handicap Trail (Intro D'Arcy then open to the all) - Date, Time, Invitees, Program, Refreshments or not, etc.
 - b) Plans for 2012 and 2013 Groves projects – Davidson
- 9) OPEN Discussion and Questions from the floor.
- 10) Summing Up – D'Arcy
- 11) Motion to Adjourn

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

Unofficial until approved at next AGM

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SECHELT GROVES SOCIETY
Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre
Tuesday, March 27, 2012
Meeting of the Membership and Guests**

- 1) Welcome and Call to Order at 7:08 PM by President D'Arcy. It was noted that a quorum was in attendance – 12 paid up members
- 2) Motion to adopt agenda – Moved by Bula Hess and seconded by Gray Waddell, carried
- 3) Motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Society – May 9, 2011 – posted on website. Moved by Doug Smith and seconded by Gray Waddell, carried
- 4) The President advised - Current Board of Directors was elected for a term of two years in 2011 and it is therefore declared that no motion in this regard is required at this meeting for this year.
- 5) **President's Report –**

I am very pleased to make this report at this time. Almost everything I can think of about the Sechelt Groves Society is good news. In this atmosphere it has been a real pleasure to be the president and take all the credit.

Seriously, before I go into any detail I must acknowledge and thank and compliment the very core of our success. The real work is done by Michael Davidson and his hearty gang of volunteer work party members. Michael works untold hard hours himself but I want to also single out those serving on the work parties who have done so much in the past few months and especially on what is called for now the Handicap Trail. They are: Rupert Clark, Ken Hall, Lou Janke, Mike Lane, Mike Sutcliffe and Damien Wallbank. I am in no way ignoring the contribution of another dozen or so souls who have done the manual labour over the years but I think very special thanks are due to this recent team. It is amazing the work you have done throughout the Groves. Thank you. Thank you.

Part of the philosophy of the Society board was that we would not burden board members with a bunch of meetings but rather just get the jobs done. We have certainly succeeded in this area as we have managed to avoid having one single board meeting since forming the Society last March. I want to assure you all though that this does not mean the board is not functioning. Email is wonderful and we kept in touch and even voted on issues that way throughout the year. There were definite places where the board agreement was needed and the email worked well.

Some of the specifics of the year will be reported on later in this meeting as you can see in the agenda but as the year flowed a lot of other things went on:

- A new brochure was produced and distributed to the Tourist Bureau and the B&Bs.
- We obtained fully Charity status with Revenue Canada and not only does this help in obtaining more generous private donations but it has helped in the submissions for grants.
- The District of Sechelt moved to provide us with both Directors and Officers Liability and third party liability insurance in our own name by a separate paid for policy.
- Trail signage was not only improved but expanded throughout all the developed trails. Even government park authorities have complimented us on the quality of the signage and how easy it makes for folks to find their way about.
- We have had parties of visitors from afar including a bus load from Korea and others individually or in smaller groups from Finland, Russia, Holland, Germany, all over the States, the UK and who knows where else.
- Guided tours for the Mayor and some councillors as well as some Sunshine Coast groups have been conducted.

As I said, much of what there is to report will be covered in specifics later on. To close this report I want to add my thanks to all the membership for their support. You have made it happen.

- 6) **Treasurer's Report** (Financial Statements were handed out to attendees upon their sign-in at the reception desk and a copy follows as part of these minutes) presented by President for the Treasurer:
- a) Membership Report
 - i) Membership peaked as we were formed and at the close of 2011 we had 63 members. To date this year we have 39. Many, many of the members give a donation when they pay their annual dues. Thanks everyone.
 - ii) Financials for Fiscal Year 2011 and summation of to date
 - (1) A review of the 2011 fiscal year report shows we were in good shape at the end of the year. Funds are segregated for the Handicap Trail Project as required by those who make grants to us.
 - (2) I have with me a 2012 to date statement and am pleased to advise we still have positive results. Our general unrestricted balance is sitting at just over \$3,300. The Restricted balance is at just over \$3,100 but it will be all spent in just a few days as the Trail is completed and all the bills are in. Oh! But for a little announcement I will be making next.
- 7) **Reports on activities of the Society over past year:**
- a) Fund Raising – D'Arcy - Fund Raising is divided into two areas.
 - i) General Funds – to cover all the day-to day expenses of the trail work, signage, tools and even some cookies for the work party. In 2011 you can see we not only had memberships but over \$2,000 in extra donations. In addition, a special thank you to the Sandy Hook Community Association for \$750 seed money to get the Society off and running.
 - ii) For the Handicap Trail. The 2011 report shows we did well. \$8,200 was spent and I can confirm that for 2012 we have another roughly \$4,000 committed from the Inland Coastal Trust for what I am now going to define as Phase One of the Accessibility Trails. With all this we come in on or very close to budget.
 - iii) Why Phase One you say? What is Phase Two? An application I made for funds back last August from the Federal Government and we waited until last week to hear that they are sending us \$12,417 for the Handicap Trail. I welcomed the money for us to go ahead with Phase Two. By the rules the Feds have set out this must start – even if just a shovel and rake makes some marks – on April 1st. Michael will address this in his report for 2012 work plans.
 - b) Work on Phase I of Handicap Trail (ayat-tsut Trail) – Davidson – Advised that after some delays due to machinery problems work had resumed and weather permitting there is only about 2 days more work to go on spreading material. The trail will then have to be compacted but that can only be done when it is not raining. There will then be work to create some rest spots along the trail and a cleaning up of the areas where nature was disturbed by the construction.
 - (i) At this point Gertrude Pacific was called upon to explain the name used - ayat-tsut Trail. It is Salish for "Take it easy". It will be the intention to use that name in both languages on any signs or mapping along with accepted "handicap" markers.
 - c) Regular Trail Building – Davidson – Advised several matters are on a "to-do" list including:
 - i) New signage on the intersection markers where some have weathered and others do clearly show the ongoing route.
 - ii) A proper railing and path for the view point to enhance safety on this popular route.
 - iii) Four more trails are approved and these are primarily routes that cut back to provide choices for shorter walks.
 - iv) General maintenance and improvements, of course.
 - d) Other developments or construction projects – Davidson – Advised that a couple of projects were underway or being planned
 - i) A need for more parking has already arisen so it is hoped to add some spots by cutting in between trees without a major clearing effort.

- ii) A kiosk will be going in sometime in the next month. The logs were donated by the Community Forest but the actual manufacturing is donated by West Coast Log Homes. An engineer was required to approve the foundations and roof materials have been purchased or are on order. The kiosk will be placed at the main entrance behind the big rocks and will hold large boards on chains with information such as a large map, list of major donors, announcements, etc. There will also be a bench which is donated by West Coast Log Homes as well. A drawing showing the planned structure was passed around.
 - iii) Of course there is the Phase II of the Handicap Trail announced in the financial report. Some minor work will be done soon and then the layout and general clearing with the backhoe will proceed. The trail will be about 425 metres and go from the entrance to the bluff and back to the entrance. A preliminary map was passed around.
- e) Work with Sechelt Community Forest and other senior organizations – D’Arcy reported
- i) Our relationship with the Community Forest is nothing but positive and we especially thank Operations Manager Dave Lasser for being so good with us. He listens and responds and seems to understand what we are seeking.
A fairly recent example of how things are going is reflected in the discussions to log next to the Grove. We had fears of logging in areas that were outside but where we had built the red trail. We had fears of bad light pollution as the trees near the boundaries were cut. Dave listened and in the end the Hidden Grove gained nearly 2 hectares of land that will not be logged and the light issues did not become a problem.
I feel free to tell you that directly at Dave’s initiative steps are being taken to protect the Hidden Grove the same as the Sechelt Heritage Forest – virtually forever and not at the whim of any logging interests. We hope to be able to make an official announcement in this regard in the next few months. We are dealing with government so it takes a minute or two.
 - ii) We have not had a lot of dealings with the District of Sechelt lately but those we have had have been positive. The new mayor is very Hidden Grove pro so we look forward to good things when needed – within reason.
 - iii) We have had meeting with the Sechelt Indian Band not only to do with the proposed trail opening ceremony but in respect of a Section 56 proposal and use of Sechelt names.

8) NEW Business

- a) Plans for Official Opening ceremony for Phase I of the Handicap Trail were discussed with a view to getting some ideas of the best way to proceed. D’Arcy advised as an introduction:
 - i) The date of May 12th had been set and that we have invited representatives of the major donors, the District Council and the Community Forest. We have confirmations from several and expect more.
 - ii) An invitation has been extended to the Sechelt Indian Band Elders to perform a formal traditional ceremony as part of the festivities. We hope for an answer soon but must consider that in any planning we do.
 - iii) We have a portable battery operated PA system with a remote mike that we can use so that any speeches will be heard.
 - iv) We have not settled on the location in the Grove for the ceremonies. In the Ancient Grove is the most attractive but it may present logistical problems for anyone with mobility issues and setting up a proper podium or whatever.
- b) An active discussion brought up several points, notably:
 - i) The Accessibility Committee of the District are to discuss this opening at their next meeting the first week in April. An assessment will be done of the Trail and entrance areas and they will give us their thoughts on the location and other matters we should consider. Joanne Scanlan who presently is on this committee has agreed to coordinate and report back. There was a preliminary consensus that we should follow the committee’s recommendations if we can since the Trail is for them.
 - ii) A porti-poti should be considered – rented for the day
 - iii) Some folding chairs should be considered

- iv) The scooter shop should be approached to see if they can support the opening in any way: - provide some scooters, donate refreshments or whatever. D'Arcy agreed to do this.
- v) If some extra wheelchairs are needed the Senior's Centre has two they will lend for the day.
- vi) A publicity program should be considered including the papers, the local radio and TV
- vii) The Botanical Gardens folks should be involved if possible both as a follow-up to work with them on 'rhodos' and plant identification labels, and for future natural plantings.
- viii) If signs for the blind are to be considered raised letters rather than Braille is more usable these days.

In the end it was agreed to consider all these points and start to draw up final plans after the report from the District committee.

- c) Plans for 2012 and 2013 Groves projects – Davidson – all seemed to have been covered under other headings.

9) OPEN Discussion and Questions from the floor – There were none of note.

10) Summing Up – D'Arcy – thanked all for attending and especially thanked Doug Smith for providing the venue and the cookies with coffee.

11) A voice from the floor asked for a got a round of applause for D'Arcy and Davidson for all their hard work and the progress since the Society was formed.

12) At 8:05 a MOTION to adjourn was made by Michael Siddall and passed unanimously.

(2011 Financial Statement on next page)

Sechelt Groves Society

2011 Financial Statement

Royal Bank Current Account Period Ending Dec. 31/11

Opening Balance March 22/11 = \$00.00

Income

GENERAL INCOME

Annual Memberships	\$540.00	
Memberships held at PayPal	\$0.00	
Over Annuals & Donations	\$2,196.20	
Over Annuals Held at PayPal	\$0.00	
SHCA Donation	\$750.00	
Sales of Goods or usage	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous	\$0.12	
Investment & Interest	\$0.00	
	\$3,486.32	\$3,486.32

RESTRICTED GRANT INCOME(Handicap Trail)

BC ReHab Foundation	\$3,000.00	
SC Community foundation	\$2,200.00	
District of Sechelt	\$1,000.00	
TD Friends of the Environment	\$2,000.00	
Island Coast Trust	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
	Total	\$8,200.00
		\$8,200.00

TOTAL **\$11,686.32**

Expenses

GENERAL EXPENSES

PayPal Deductions	\$16.96	
Registration (society) costs	\$131.28	
Misc. Groves Materials	\$393.29	
Gifts Given	\$0.00	
Licenses and Permits	\$0.00	
Meet and Greet	\$0.00	
Printing, Office, etc.	\$122.18	
Website - domain name 2 years	\$25.00	
Bank Services	\$22.50	
Other	\$0.00	
	\$711.21	\$711.21

PROJECT EXPENSES(Handicap Trail) to 31/12

Small World Excavating	\$4,200.00	
	\$0.00	
	\$0.00	
	\$0.00	
	\$0.00	
	\$0.00	
	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00

TOTAL **\$4,911.21**

GENERAL BALANCE \$2,775.11

RESTRICTED BALANCE \$4,000.00

OVERALL BALANCE **\$6,775.11**

(Sent to database of members, former members and a few extra)

There is ALL good news. Not in any particular order:

1. We had a very successful Annual General Meeting on March 27th. Nearly a third of the current membership was in attendance. There was an excellent exchange of ideas and information. You can read all about it in the posted minutes on the website at <http://secheltgroves.com>
2. True to all predictions that super group of VOLUNTEER trail builders finished the spreading and smoothing of the crusher dust on the ayat-tsut Trail (Salish for 'Take It Easy' the new name for the Handicap Trail Phase One). Pictures on the website. There is some compacting to finish off and some housecleaning along the Trail and it is essentially finished. Future plans for this trail include some rest spots along the way with benches. We now know that seniors and others who do not need wheelchairs but will appreciate the more gentle route will be big users of the Trail.
3. Phase Two will be another Accessibility Trail running from near the entrance into the bluff and back. You can see an early, rough map on the website. With the \$12,714 in hand from a Federal grant we applied for back in August of 2011 that just was confirmed we have enough to do the entire trail or very close anyway. Work will be spread out over several months as we do not want to neglect other projects and good maintenance.
4. Watch for the kiosk to appear sometime in April. Some footings have to be poured at our expense and then up it goes. A great donation from the Community Forest and West Coast Log Homes. We will be paying for roof to go on too but from some donated funds.
5. Watch for refurbished signs at many of the intersection posts and a proper railing up at the view point. All for this summer.
6. Just had those Ferry Ambassadors visit en masse. See pictures on the website.

MOST IMPORTANT – as advised earlier, mark your calendars for the grand opening of the Phase One Accessibility Trail on **May 12th**. Plan to attend and we will have some surprises in store for you that we have been holding back for just such a special event.

LASTLY, if you have not renewed your membership **please do so**. It is easy to do on the website or by a mail-in form there. If you cannot remember if you renewed, the current members are listed on the website.

Thanks everyone (and especially those Trail Builders)

Sechelt Groves Society



Sechelt Groves Society

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

Email: secheltgroves@eastlink.ca

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

Phone: 604-885-5766

Date: April 4, 2012

Hello Dave Estergaard,

It has been reported to me that you have been or plan on shooting your bow and arrow in the Hidden Grove.

Thanks to literally thousands of hours of volunteer work and thousands of dollars in donations over an 11 year period this area has been preserved for the enjoyment of nature by walking groups. These users include regular residents of the area out for a walk but also: bus loads of school children on outings, organized tour groups including some from as far away as Korea and Brazil, mushroom collectors and collectors of native species, dog walkers and soon; those with accessibility issues and in wheelchairs. The trails were not built to provide easy access for hunters or those practising with weapons.

It would be a disaster for any individual to be injured but it would also reflect terribly on the Grove and the Society that has worked so hard for it if someone were accidentally injured (or even killed) by an arrow. I have had enough experience in the woods to know that even the most careful hunters can fail to see someone in the bush or misinterpret what they are seeing. A friend of mine died in Alberta as the result of a similar incident. It is not worth the chance.

I am sure that with this letter it will not become necessary but if there are any reports of use of any weapon including a bow and arrow in the Groves then all the appropriate action will be taken relentlessly with the RCMP and with the District (including charges under Bylaw 487 with fines up to \$10,000 plus jail time).

In light of the report I felt I had a duty, as president of the Society tasked with development and maintenance of the Groves, to communicate. If the report is false then you have my most humble apologies.

Yours truly,

Sechelt Groves Society

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

President

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

(Sent blind to all current and past members plus some special folks)

It is great to report good news again.

1. In case you have not heard, Phase One, of the accessibility trail is now fully completed and ready to use. We are having an official opening on **SATURDAY, MAY 12TH AT 2 PM IN THE HIDDEN GROVE PARKING LOT**. Please see the attached poster (in PDF) for some detail but you can see we have the Mayor on hand and some of the super donors are represented. **PLEASE ATTEND** and, if you can, bring someone who will find the new trail a special benefit such as those in wheelchairs or who use walkers or mothers with strollers to push and, of course , some of the older folks who find a rougher or steeper trail a problem.
2. We hope to have some other announcements to make at the ceremony as well.
3. The cement footings are in and as this email is written steps are under way for delivery and setting up of the kiosk at the main entrance to the trail. This is a major item and will shelter a bench along with signage and maps. It may be partially ready to view at the ceremony for the trail. Thanks to West Coast Log Homes for the main structure and the membership for the rest of the funds needed.
4. You may have noted the expression "Phase One" in describing the completed trail. We are pretty sure we have received another grant to do a Phase Two - an accessibility loop trail to run from the main entrance to the south western part of the Grove. More on this in a later news email.
5. At the recent AGM of the Sunshine Coast Community Forest we traded compliments with the board of the SCCF. It is wonderful to have such a positive relationship after all these years. Dave Lasser, the Operations Manager of the SCCF, is attending the ceremony and may have a nice announcement to make (secret right now).

As always we want to close this email news with our perpetual special thanks to the Trailbuilders volunteer workparty guys who do so much. Thanks a ton, fellas.

And have you renewed your membership or donated this year? It is easy to do online or to print out a form from the website. It all goes to help the Groves be developed and maintained as the wonderful place it is for you to enjoy.

Until next time and see you on May 12th.

Sechelt Groves Society
<http://secheltgroves.com/>

New accessibility trail set to open

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 — ayatsut 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 1.5 metres wide throughout. Maximum grades do not exceed accessibility standards of about five per cent. It is a truly beautiful and easy trip. See more at www.secheltingroves.com.

Almost all the labour for the trail construction was performed by the Society Trailbuilders, a dedicated group of volunteers, most of whom reside in the Sandy Hook neighbourhood.

This hard working team put in more than 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

be 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 at 2 p.m. Mayor John Henderson has agreed to speak as have some representatives of the major donors. The public is welcome to attend.

— Submitted

May 12, 2012 Opening Remarks – President Bob D’Arcy

Hello everybody and thank you very much for coming today. For those that don’t know, I am Bob D’Arcy and I am the President of the Sechelt Groves Society that tries to make it all happen here and in the Sechelt Heritage Forest. I get to be sort of MC today so I am sorry you will have to listen to me for a bit.

This is a very special day for the Society as we mark the finish of this first accessibility trail. We hope it is a special day for all those who might have mobility issues and want to have a trip into a beautiful grove of old trees. Including grants, volunteer labour, in kind gifts and membership fees or donations the total budget for this project was over \$28,000 and it is paid for and we still have some money in the bank for ongoing works.

The big thing that I must do today is officially recognize and thank all those who contributed to the building of this; the “Take It Easy” Trail. It is wonderful that I have a pretty long list as this shows how folks are prepared to support such an initiative. I am going to acknowledge everyone more or less in alphabetical order. In some cases a representative of an organization is present and they will be given an opportunity to say a few words but only if they so wish.

- BC ReHab Foundation based in Vancouver was one of the first to come through with a cash grant and it was substantial. Thank you.
- The District of Sechelt has contributed in many ways. The Parks and Public Works folks have helped us with advice and signage and always seem to be there when we need them. The Finance folks arranged for the Society’s insurance at no cost to us. A special thanks to former Mayor Darren Inkster who pushed our cause with the Island Coastal Economic Trust. The Councils, both old and new, have been supportive in approving the activities of the various departments and of the Society. I see Mayor Henderson here today – thank goodness as he is to give us a little guest speech - but I wonder if he wants to comment at this time on the District support without ruining his later talk. Mayor?
- The Island Coastal Economic Trust – a provincially funded trust for projects on the Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island. They gave us a substantial cash grant. Again, Mayor Henderson seems to be the representative for today’s event. Anything more to add Your Worship?
- Lehigh Materials or more commonly called CAL by us locals was generous with some free loads of crusher dust for the trail. Dave the mine manager hoped to be here today and if he is would he like to say something? Dave?
- Michel Frenette - senior park technician at SCRD (Michel Parks & Outdoor Services) not only let us use his tractor for a bit but he lent us his expertise in designing the trail. Is Michel here?
- Sandy Hook Community Association have supported the saving of the Hidden Grove and supplied seed money for the Society. I see Acting President Gray Waddell in the crowd. Gray, anything to add today?
- Sunshine Coast Community Foundation; again, a nice cash grant. They are to be represented here today by Mr. Don Basham and if he is here I wonder if he would care to say a few words. Mr. Basham?
- Sunshine Coast Community Forest. They have the forest tenure for the Hidden Grove and if it were not for their wonderful support we would not even have a Grove let alone a new Accessibility Trail. When we need help we find we can always give them a call. Dave Lasser, the Operations Manager and our main contact is here today and Dave, I am sure you have something to say for the benefit of all. Dave?
- Small World Excavating or better known as Jason Herz! Jason’s help has been super. He ran his wonderful little tractor for the new trail at a wonderful discount and threw in hours of work at

no charge at all. Throughout the planning and design he came out to lend his great advice. I don't know how we would have done it without you Jason. Say something.

- RELAX EVERYONE – I AM NEARLY THROUGH THE LIST.
- Swanson's Ready-Mix Ltd. How wonderful you were. A lot of free trucking and super discounts on loads of crusher dust. You always did what you said you would and were just wonderful. Sechelt is lucky to have you. Val Swanson indicated she might make it today but no promise so if she is here will she care to say something. Val?
- TD Friends of the Environment. This Toronto Dominion Bank group were very generous with a cash grant.
- West Coast Log Homes. You can turn and see the wonderful structure they donated and that just was erected by our volunteers. You may not see it as part of the trail but it will hold a sign to thank all those who donated to the trail and will act as a spot out of the rain.
- The support and fees and member donations from all the members of the Society contributed greatly to our success on this project and of course on all the projects in the Groves. Thank you members and for anyone who feels guilty that they have not joined or renewed – you can join on line or pick up one of the maps forms in the box down at the main entrance.
- I also want to acknowledge the presence of Mr. Bill Conway, Chair of the District Accessibility committee. Bill is here with his wonderful canine companion that helps him everywhere.

And now a real fun one. Enough cannot be said about the volunteer Trailbuilders work party members who did the hard slugging to build the trail and who build and maintain all the trails in the Groves. Rain or shine they would show up to work hard raking, shovelling, hauling, pouring, clearing, lifting – whatever it took to build the trail, Some days the weather called for a cancellation of a work party and the members complained that work was called off. On this trail they put in over 600 hours of volunteer labour. The only return for them was coffee and cookies at break time.

There are work party members who have come and gone or who never actually worked on this particular Trail. I have a list of over 25. These are our heroes.

Today I am just going to call out, one by one, those who did the work on this 'Take It Easy' trail and Michael Davidson has a small gift to give to each. When your name is called please wave your arm or something so Michael can find you. And everyone give a cheer or something for each of them in turn. The first on my list is Rupert Clark and it is with real regret that I must advise you all that on Thursday Rupert fell off a ladder while working on the kiosk behind you. He was helicoptered to Vancouver with two broken vertebrae and I don't know what else. We all wish him a full and speedy recovery. I guess that I have to move on anyway so:

Ken Hall

Lou Janke

Mike Lane

Mike Sutcliffe

Gray Waddell

Damien Wallbank

And last but the real driving force and organizer of it all and without whom there would be no new trail and maybe no trails anywhere in the Groves at all. A special thank you to Michael Davidson – Michael come up here and pick up your gift.

That is it for the long list. Before we have the ribbon cutting I want to turn the mike over to His Worship Mayor Henderson who has kindly offered to say a few words to honour this occasion – Your Worship –

<The Mayor Spoke>

Thank you Mayor Henderson for all your kind words. I know everyone is appreciative.

As a surprise I am please to make one last announcement. We will be starting the planned Phase 2 of the Accessibility Trails very soon. It will run from down by the kiosk into the bluff and back more or less parallel to Sechelt Inlet Road but in the woods as a loop. It again will be about 450 metres. On this Wednesday I finally received a firm commitment to a Federal grant for \$12,714 which will mostly cover the costs based on the same input of in kind and discounts as for Phase 1.

Also be sure and take one or even more of the souvenir postcards before you go. Keep it or send it to someone you want informed.

Now let's get really going. I am very pleased that we have here today Mrs. Bonnie Klein. She is a long term resident of the coast, a documentary film maker and the mother of the world renowned author, Naomi Klein. Bonnie suffered a stroke in 1987 that made her mobility challenged. She is happy to offer her advice to others similarly inflicted and wrote a very well received book on the subject called Slow Dance that was released in 1995. She tells me she loves an opportunity to get out with nature and so she is the perfect person for today's ceremony. Gertrude Pacific, long suffering wife of our volunteer Michael Davidson, is to assist.

Bonnie – are you ready? Are the cameras set? Do your thing and honour us all.

Now everyone is invited to use the Take It Easy Trail and proceed into the Ancient Grove area and back. It is about 10 minutes each way. Let's Go and don't forget to get your postcard.

May 12, 2012

Incident Report Concerning Rupert Clark

Prepared by Michael Davidson, Volunteer Coordinator for the Sechelt Groves Society

At about 11am on May 10, 2012, Rupert Clark fell from a ladder while working on the Kiosk in the Hidden Grove recreation area parking lot near Sandy Hook. He was standing on a 10' Falcon type 1 aluminum tripod orchard ladder. He was routing the end of the 8 x 8 ridge beam that is 12' above the ground when the ladder appears to have collapsed at which point Rupert landed on his back on the forest floor, router still in his hands. Damien Wallbank who was working on a nearby beam saw Rupert go down when one of the legs slipped out. Ken Hall, a third volunteer, remembers seeing Rupert on his back, feet tangled in the bottom of the ladder which was leaning against a corner of the structure. I immediately called 911 while Ken and Damien put jackets over him, engaged him in conversation until the ambulance arrived and made sure he didn't try to change position, although he could move all body parts. The ladder was undamaged.

None of us had paid particular attention to Rupert's ladder placement. He had successfully routed the other end of the ridge beam as well as two other 8 x 8 beam ends using the same equipment. Rupert is 6'4" tall and assuming he was working at eye level his feet would have been about 6' off the ground.

My job is to set up work dates, explain the tasks at hand and let the volunteers pick what jobs they want to do, who they want to work with and what tools they want to use.

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
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Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4
Ph: 604-885-5766
Email: 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.

Sechelt Groves Society Final Report for Donors



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.

Sechelt Groves Society Final Report for Donors



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



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

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

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

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 12th 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.





Sechelt Groves Society

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

Email: secheltgroves@eastlink.ca

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

Phone: 604-885-5766

Date: May 16, 2012

BY EMAIL

The BC Rehab Foundation
4255 Laurel Street
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 2G9

Attention: Pamela MacDonald, Manager of Projects and Communications.

Re: Hidden Groves Legacy Committee/Sechelt Groves Society Grant Final Report

Dear Madam,

After your very generous grant to the Society we were pleased to begin and then to complete the Handicap Trail Phase One. It is a beautiful trail and already in active use by those with mobility issues. We think it more than accomplishes the goal you saw to support. Our website has a full report on the entire progress of the project and includes a slideshow virtual tour of the trail so you can see the end result in some detail.

A final report for your records is a separate attachment to this email and we hope it covers the information you would like to have after such a project contribution. If there is any further information you would like we would be pleased to provide it.

We cannot thank you enough for your support on this project and we would appreciate you passing on our thanks to all of your directors and supporters.

Yours gratefully,

R.B. D'Arcy (computer Signature)

President
Sechelt Grove Society

2012

**In recognition of the contributions of
Robert D'Arcy,
along with the efforts of many others,
in making the dream of the
Hidden Groves a reality**

Robert D'Arcy

From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
Sent: June-01-12 10:28 AM
To: 'Rachel Nelken'
Cc: Michael Davidson (pacidavi@gmail.com)
Subject: RE: Rick Hansen Global Accessibility Map-ENTRY

Hello Rachel,

On May 13th we had an official opening of the "Take It Easy" accessibility trail and you can review the opening and probably more than you ever want to know at <http://secheltgroves.com/handicap.html> The trail is hard surfaced and 450 metres long. There is a link to a virtual tour.

I have gone to "planat" and created a location – Hidden Grove - that is under administrative review and I can see it at <http://www.planat.com/mapcms/rhf/query.html> What do you suggest we do next about the mapping? I was surprised that it is the only one that popped up on the Sunshine Coast near Sechelt. I need guidance as I am not handicapped and am really out of my element when it comes to what to do or say (except to help build trails!)

By the way we are going to start a second 450 metre trail for wheelchair accessibility – see <http://secheltgroves.com/handicap2.html>

I look forward to hearing from you when you get a chance (If you are pretty well through the wonderful anniversary celebrations)

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

From: Rachel Nelken [mailto:rneken@rickhansen.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 12:30 PM
To: rdarcy@dccnet.com
Subject: Rick Hansen Global Accessibility Map

Hi Bob:

I trust this note finds you well. My colleague Debbie Butt asked that I connect with you as your accessible trail would fit nicely in our Rick Hansen Global Accessibility Map.

The [Rick Hansen Global Accessibility Map](#) is an easy-to-use online ratings tool for consumers to submit and search reviews from a mobility, sight or hearing perspective on the accessibility of buildings and public spaces in communities around the world. Through these consumer reviews, the Global Accessibility Map aims to raise awareness of the importance of improved accessibility and is part of the Foundation's ongoing commitment to improving accessibility and quality of life for all people - including people with disabilities, seniors and parents with strollers to make informed decisions on everyday activities such as where they eat, shop, work and play.

I've attached an overview for your reference.

I look forward to hearing from to see how we might collaborate!

Cheers,
Rachel

Rachel Nelken
Marketing & Communications Specialist
Global Accessibility Map
Rick Hansen Foundation
d: 778-296-1571
e: rnelken@rickhansen.com
www.rickhansen.com

 [twitter/rickhansenfdn](https://twitter.com/rickhansenfdn)

 [facebook/rickhansenfdn](https://facebook.com/rickhansenfdn)

"If enough of us choose to change even one small thing, together we have the power to change anything. Together, anything is possible."



From: Robert D'Arcy [<mailto:rdarcy@dccnet.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 02, 2012 9:46 AM
To: info
Subject: FW: Opening Ceremony invitation

Hello and Happy New Year,
This is just a follow-up to the email below that was sent in November. Your advice would be appreciated.
Thank you.

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

From: Robert D'Arcy [<mailto:rdarcy@dccnet.com>]
Sent: November-11-11 10:50 AM
To: 'info@rickhansen.com'
Subject: Opening Ceremony invitation

Please pass this inquiry on to the appropriate person at the Foundation.

In the early spring of 2012 we will have completed a very special wheelchair accessible trail in a special area of the Sunshine Coast – the Hidden Grove near Sechelt. We plan on an opening ceremony for the trail to be held at the Hidden Grove parking lot and certainly local dignitaries will attend along with local disable persons.

For our own gratification and as an assist to your Foundation we are wondering if it might be possible to have Rick Hansen come as a special guest and say a few words. We would pick up reasonable expenses. By the time of the opening we will have raised (and spent) our funds for construction and so this would open up the ceremony as an opportunity for the Foundation to appeal for and raise funds.

A lot of detail on the Hidden Grove is on our website at <http://secheltgroves.com> and under the "What we are doing" menu link is a progress report on the 'Handicap Trail'. We hope this will help you assess our project and

all the senior volunteer effort that has gone into it over the past 11 years. Certainly we would be pleased to answer any questions directly by you contacting the undersigned.

As noted the date in the spring has not been set yet but can be flexible. We would appreciate an indication of interest that we can then firm up,

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

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

(Sent blind to all current and past members plus some special folks)

Hi <<First Name>> <<Last Name>> ,

We tried to personalize this message above so if your name does not appear or is incorrect please let us know.

Anyway, lots going on and lots to report so here goes:

a) First, if you have not renewed your membership for 2012 OR you know someone who should join please consider using the website to either renew/join online or print a form to mail in. Especially those of you who are using the Groves so much as indicated by the full parking lot.

b) The opening of Phase 1 of the Accessibility Trail - the Take It Easy Trail - opened on May 12 with over 70 in attendance including some of the donors, the Mayor and our wonderful ribbon cutter, Bonnie Klein. A complete write-up and slideshow is on the website at <http://secheltgroves.com/handicap.html> Have a look.

c) If you are still wondering about the "Phase 1" reference then we are pleased to officially advise that Human Resources and Skills Development Canada - Offices for Disability Issues has kindly sent us a grant of \$12,714. Combined with our valued other donors of materials and services plus, of course, our wonderful Trailbuilder volunteers this will enable the second accessibility trail to start soon. Stay up to date at <http://secheltgroves.com/handicap2.html>

d) If you have not been to the Hidden Grove lately you will be surprised by the wonderful entrance kiosk that has been installed. The logs for it were donated by the Community Forest and the creation and help installing was courtesy of West Coast Log Homes. If, that's if, the weather improves then the logs will be stained and surfaced to last 'forever'. Then there will be as time permits the installation of a bench along with hanging signage: thanking our donors; maps for guidance; latest news and more.

e) Aside from the new Accessibility Trails there is lots on a "to-do" list for the Society. Just a few of the items are: refurbishing some of the maps within the forest; work on the view point trail area; some more parking spots (without taking down trees), and about 20 other things. Of course we will keep you posted on the website so check there often.

f) The website is being updated and cleaned up gradually so don't get lost if you are used to navigating a certain way. We hope it will be easier and clearer for all. We welcome suggestions.

PLEASE be sure and tell any of your biking friends that they are very welcome to WALK the Groves but cycling or motor biking is NOT allowed. It is just too dangerous for everyone and the trails are not built to handle that sort of traffic.

Lastly, thanks for all your support and keep the memberships and donations coming in. You can comment by replying to this email or for all to see by using the Guestbook on the website.

Until next time,

Sechelt Groves Society.

More Hidden Grove Progress

Following on the wonderful opening of the “Take It Easy” wheel chair access trail in the Hidden Grove on May 13th there is now even more to celebrate at the Groves.

The Sechelt Grove Society has completed the installation of an entrance kiosk. With logs donated by the Sunshine Coast Community Forest and manufacturing donated by West Coast Log Homes, the kiosk will provide an “out of the rain” sitting area and large signage with important information about the Groves. SGS Trailbuilder Volunteers completed the installation of the kiosk on July 7th. The signage is currently being prepared and should be installed by early August.

One volunteer, Rupert Clark, was seriously injured during the kiosk roof installation and suffered a broken back when he fell from a ladder. We are very pleased to report “The Roop” is quickly recovering fully and pledges to be back volunteering at the Groves by fall.

On July 21st the machine work began on a second wheel chair accessible trail. It will be about 480 metres long and be a loop into a lovely area south of the main entrance and parking lot. The trail starts just to the right of the kiosk. Major funds for this new trail came in a grant from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

With the Trailbuilders taking a bit of a summer break to enjoy summer and visitors, it is expected the trail will be completed in September or October. This means there will be over a kilometer of trails in the Groves suitable for wheel chairs or walkers or strollers or for those who just need a bit of an easier route into the wonderful Grove woods.

With the new features the Hidden Grove is gaining in popularity for residents and visitors alike. The tourists love it. Rough counts indicate over 250 visitors on some days and yet it never seems crowded. Be sure and check it out. You can view maps, pictures, including virtual tours, all on the SGS website at secheltgroves.com.





PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Sechelt Grove Society (SGS) has completed the installation of an entrance kiosk. With logs donated by the Sunshine Coast Community Forest and manufacturing donated by West Coast Log Homes, the kiosk will provide an out of the rain sitting area and large signage with important information about the Groves.

SECHELT GROVE SOCIETY

More Hidden Grove progress

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The Sechelt Grove Society (SGS) has completed the installation of an entrance kiosk. With logs donated by the Sunshine Coast Community Forest and manufacturing donated

by West Coast Log Homes, the kiosk will provide an out of the rain sitting area and large signage with important information about the Groves.

SGS trail builder volunteers completed the installation of the kiosk on July 7. The signage is currently being prepared and should be installed later this month.

One volunteer, Rupert Clark, was seriously injured during the kiosk roof installation and suffered a broken back when he fell from a ladder. Society members are pleased to report that Clark (known to friends as "The Roop") is quickly recovering and pledges to be back volunteering at the Groves by fall.

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main entrance and parking lot. The trail starts just to the right of the kiosk. Major funds for this new trail came in a grant from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

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With the new features the Hidden Grove is gaining in popularity for residents and visitors alike. Rough counts indicate over 250 visitors on some days and yet it never seems crowded. Maps and pictures, including virtual tours, are on the SGS website at secheltgroves.com.

— Submitted

audio
SALE

AND MORE!

WIN!

7 10" Sub Box or
Value over \$500!

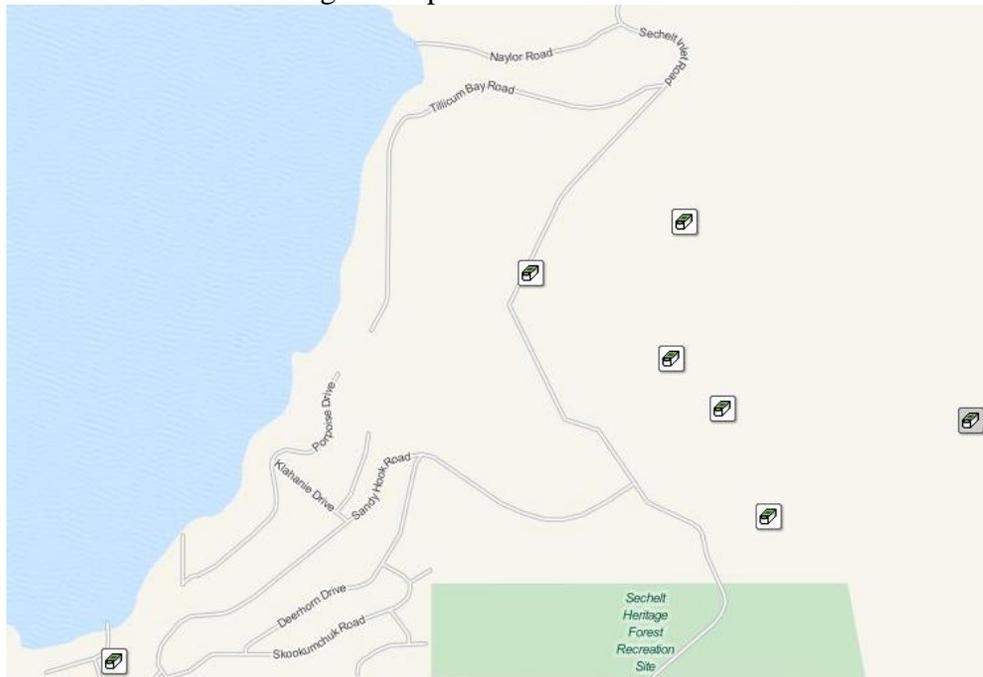
September 21/12

Just an update from the Sunshine Coast Geocachers.

There are currently five geocaches in the Grove proper. To date the most central one, placed in 2010, has received 37 logged visits. The wheelchair accessible one, placed in 2012, has received 20 visits. The other three, all placed in 2012 have received 12, 10, and 9 visits.

Attached is a map showing the approximate geocache locations.

The shaded one on the right was placed in 2003 and received 57 visits before it was decommissioned this year due to logging.



The main enemies of a geocache are moisture and vandalism. So far, all five caches have remained bone dry and have required little maintenance. Vandalism has not been an issue at all. Visitors' comments have been very positive.

Geocaching.com has strict rules regarding cache proximity to other caches and related waypoints (528 ft). Because of an existing waypoint at the Sandy Hook Road intersection we can't place a new near the kiosk as we hoped, but we plan on placing another on Monty's Way upon completion of the trail.

Cheers,

Warren James
Sunshine Coast Geocachers

Robert D'Arcy

From: Sechelt Groves Society <secheltgroves@eastlink.ca>
Sent: September-21-12 10:41 AM
To: rdarcy@dccnet.com
Subject: Sechelt Groves News

(Sent blind to all current and past members plus some special folks)

Hi Robert D'Arcy,

It has been some months since an update on the Hidden Grove so here goes:

1 - The second Accessibility Trail – Monty's Way – is all laid out. Jason Herz has done his thing with his Bobcat and it is ready for the fine touch of the Trailbuilders to move in the gravel and then the crusher dust for a new super trail. It is a loop starting at the kiosk and coming back to it. For the regular walkers it is a route to connect up to the "green" trail out towards the power lines.

Right now work is delayed waiting for some rainy weather. Yes, we need rain so the dust is kept down and the material compacts properly.

Come visit and take a look.

2 - The super kiosk is finished and a set of wonderful signs has been installed. 'Vital Signs' in Roberts Creek gave us a special deal and worked to make the signs near perfect (at least we think so). Now you can see the list of Donors, a brief history of the Groves, a very large map with a list of features, a locked bulletin board for announcements and news plus a list of "Do's and Dont's" - all large and colourful.

3 - It is getting late in the year but – did you pay your membership for 2012? It is not too late – we will always welcome the money. Can't remember? Check online at http://secheltgroves.com/join/CurrentMemberlist_Word2.pdf . If your name is not on that list membership must have slipped your mind!

Please consider using the website to either renew/join online or print a form to mail in.

Also, please talk up joining with your friends. Judging by the full parking lot, loads of folks are using the Groves and if all of them sent in \$10 once a year would sure be nice to help keep it all going.

4 - We are in the slow process of redoing all the mapping – new numbering, more posts in some remote spots and clearer directions. The new big map in the kiosk shows new numbering so for awhile the maps within the grove will not agree with it. Nevertheless all should still be clear so you do not get lost.

5 - Aside from the new Accessibility Trail and kiosk there are lots of things on a "to- do" list for the Society. The website has a full list but a few are: redoing all the post maps, refurbishing the colour markers, some more parking spots, and, of course, all the regular maintenance.

6 - New "No Biking" signs are in place. PLEASE be sure and tell any of your biking friends that they are very welcome to WALK the Groves but cycling or motor biking is NOT allowed. It is just too dangerous for everyone and the trails are not built to handle that sort of traffic.

7 - The website is constantly updated and full of more information and pictures for you. Visit regularly to stay up to date and informed.

Lastly, thanks for all your support and keep the memberships and donations coming in. You can comment by replying to this email or for all to see by using the Guestbook on the website.

Until next time,

Sechelt Groves Society.

<http://secheltgroves.com/>

October 2012 - To Do List **DONE**



Sorted more or less by priority but must consider being flexible depending on resources

A	Priority	Thing to Do	RBD	MD	Other
1	constant	Follow-up on Section 56	RBD		After Dave about once a month – in progress
2	High	Major safety work on viewpoint: Just finish up		MD	Workparty
2	Soon so ready for rest points	Look into bench selling program and how we might profit or rules or whatever	RBD		
3	Next Major Item	Monty's Way: Machine Work Volunteer Work – signage installed – rest areas maybe sign like Take It Easy(Ordered and cost covered)		MD	Hope to finish by year end to meet goals set by grant giver but...
4		Some rest areas and benches along Take It Easy		MD	Bench materials in hand – need construction. Installation
5		Approach DoS to change grant status for permanence	RBD		
5		All main route maps replaced to reflect new trails and results of survey of posts - See 8 as maybe some by Vital now	RBD	MD	One draws, the other laminates Decide if some hard ones now.
5		Move map case position to new spot.			
6		Extended parking to right of entrance road in slots or whatever works			Work party with help from CF or DoS?
7		Rework or dress green trail if there have been issues created by logging			Workparty
7		Sign at open area near logging on Green Trail			Have asked Dave - waiting
7		Investigate and maybe proceed with Rhodo plantings	RBD		Will write society
8	When needed	Revise brochure with new map and accessibility shown well Revised current to show Wheelchair access - done	RBD		<i>Current supply will probably do until used up.</i>
8		All main route maps replaced by Vital hard ones	RBD	MD	Design and order
9		Investigate practical toilet for Ancient Grove and maybe parking area.	RBD		Report sort of done – decision to be made
10		2013 fund raising – for finishing (toilet/parking/whatever)	RBD		

Robert D'Arcy

From: Sechelt Groves Society <secheltgroves@eastlink.ca>
Sent: November-06-12 1:34 PM
To: rdarcy@dccnet.com
Subject: Sechelt Groves News #8

(Sent blind to all current and past members plus some special folks)

Hi Robert D'Arcy,

Just a short update to all so you know what is going on in your “favorite” place!

- The dry, dry fall kept the Trailbuilders from working on the second accessibility trail – Monty’s Way. Without moisture it was not practical to laydown gravel and crusher dust. Nevertheless the gallant volunteers carried on with other needed work. In particular, a major redevelopment up at the Pine Bluff Viewpoint. The paths have been reworked, some steps have been cemented in and markers better placed. It is not all done at this press time as some railings are to go in and some neatening up. Completed, it will be a vast improvement for your comfort and particularly your safety.
 - The recent rains sort of over did it! But because of how heavy they were they revealed some low flooding spots on the roughed in Monty’s Way. Your Trailbuilders are working on these and some culverts are being installed. We are pleased to report that the campaign for funds for the sign for the trail was a complete success and the sign is on order for installation when the trail is done. Thank you all.
 - There has been the usual maintenance issues: a large tree down over the bridge in the Sechelt Heritage Forest; the parking signs reworked as it turned out the treatment in the wooden posts was corroding the aluminum; more no biking signs installed; and, of course, other minor items.
 - For visitors with “smart phones” **the Groves now has a Phone App**. You can access it from the website Home page. The app is called secheltgroves and contains much of what is on the kiosk including: the main map, the rules and guides, how to get to the Groves and more. It is free to download.
 - We are now posting submitted visitors photos on the website and some neat ones have already come in from folks from Vienna, Ottawa and Nova Scotia – take a look.
 - Right after our last News the Geocaching folks put in another couple of spots.
 - We are changing the sign soon but just so you know the bus parking is revised to “Bus and RV parking”. There was always room for 2 buses but very few of them show up. In the summer some visiting RVs did not know where to place their big units.
- As usual, this News is getting longer than planned but you can see there is a lot going on.

We can always use donations so don’t forget you can donate on line **OR** see the button on the Home page to **participate in the ‘Change It’ program** where any purchases you make with your debit card are rounded up to the nearest dollar and the change (with a limit you can set) comes to the Groves.

In the Groove in the Grove!

Sechelt Groves Society

www.secheltgroves.com

Sent to the current board of the SGS:

President: Bob D'Arcy

Vice President: Gertrude Pacific

Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Davidson

Directors:

Rupert Clark -- Michael Siddall -- Doug Smith-- Mike Sutcliffe -- Gray Waddell

ONLINE BOARD MEETING (sort of)

It was back in June that I last reported to you as a board so here goes with this online meeting called to order.

President's Report

- 1) **Current Financial Report** – a copy is at the bottom this report for you to review detail. Bottom line is we have \$11,742.69 in hand in total divided roughly \$3,000 for general expenses and \$9,000 dedicated to the second Handicap or Monty's Way. I say roughly since we are able to (within some limits) move money between the two designations). Best guess - we are in good shape for now.
- 2) **Projects Underway** – the website will give you details but current work is
 - a) Finishing Monty's Way and this is planned for completion by year end. One of our grants calls for this deadline although I am not sure what they do to us if we miss by a bit. It just would be nice to meet the deadline and be in compliance.
 - b) Only a small bit to be done in the improvement of access and safety at the Pine Bluff viewpoint. Stairs are in; paths are better cleared and marked. There are a couple of railings to install and a sign that has already been purchased and that explains the view highlights to visitors.
 - c) All of the map signs on the intersection posts are to be redone and replaced. This must be done as the current signs are out of date with the addition of new trails, some are in bad shape and some were not too right first time around. We are going to go with commercially produced signs this time on aluminium backing much like the signs in the kiosk but of course the right size.
 - d) A BIG one. Through the Sechelt Community Forest we have been working to gain Section 56 protection for the Hidden Grove just as the Sechelt Heritage Forest has. Letters of support were gathered including from the Sechelt Indian Band and the District. Last week we heard back from the Provincial Government and while the approval is still a work in progress there they confirmed it is moving forward.
 - i) In order to expedite progress they suggested we consolidate both the SHF and the HG into one forest entity so the whole is area is protected as one. This has been a desirable goal all along so we were quick to accept the concept.
 - ii) For legal map purposes this requires a renaming of the area now that it will be consolidated and after some contemplation by some of your board and by the SCF we elected to go with the new name of "Sechelt Heritage Hidden Groves" and we

expect this will be accepted by the Province. This change in no way stops us from still working with the old names for our maps, signage and publicity. It is only the legal term for the government and the formal government maps. This way both names continue in the government records too.

We will keep you posted from time to time on this important matter.

3) Other Information of interest

- a) Board member Rupert Clark has agreed to be our representative to the Sunshine Coast Trails Society – an important group coordinating trail work throughout the Coast including the recently opened Chapman Trail and Bridge project and the work on the Coast Trail from Egmont to Gibsons.
- b) Another Rupert item – he showed up for the last workparty which is wonderful after his very serious and debilitating fall last year while working on the kiosk.

- 4) **Projects down the Road** – We are starting to see the end of real projects for the Groves. There is a list of items on the website but some may be some time off. The basics to go now are: some more parking places which we are confident can be done without taking down any trees; a couple more trails in the northern area; some rest areas on the wheelchair trails; some interpretive signage in the woods (the SCF has agreed to largely fund this). There are other bits and pieces that we can all do within current funding. Further off we hope for the proper toilet facility and maybe, maybe the interpretive centre.

Reports from Others

Folks there “ain’t none” of these but I am sure we all would welcome any comments or suggestions or whatever from any of you. Use the Reply to All remember.

Barring any surprise items I plan to next have one of these ‘virtual meetings’ in the new year as we can report on the renewal membership drive and set a date for the required AGM.

Thank you all for your support.

Sechelt Groves Society
Interim 2012 Financial Statement
 Last Update **November 19, 2012**

Income

	General		
Opening Balance January 1/12 was =	\$ 3,775.11		
<u>GENERAL INCOME</u>			
Annual Memberships	\$420.00		
Memberships held at PayPal	\$0.00		
Over Annuals & Donations	\$1,680.00		
Over Annuals Held at PayPal	\$10.00		
SHCA Donation	\$0.00		
Sales of Goods or usage	\$0.00		
Miscellaneous	\$0.00		
Investment & Interest	\$0.00		
District Grant in Aid	\$1,000.00		
\$0.00	\$0.00		
Total	\$3,110.00	\$3,110.00	
 <u>Handicap</u>			
Opening Balance January 1/12 was =	\$ 3,000.00		
<u>RESTRICTED GRANT INCOME(Handicap Trail #1)</u>			
Island Coast Trust	\$2,466.88		
Island Coast Trust	\$2,333.12		
Island Coast Trust	\$1,881.00		
Handicap #1 to complete	\$35.05		
0	\$0.00		
0	\$0.00		
Total	\$6,716.05	\$6,716.05	
<u>RESTRICTED GRANT INCOME(Handicap Trail #2)</u>			
Federal Grant	\$12,714.00		
Held at PayPal	\$15.00		
Sign Collection	\$209.74		
0	\$0.00		
0	\$0.00		
Total	\$12,938.74	\$12,938.74	\$22,764.79

Expenses

<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
PayPal Deductions	\$17.79		
Registration (society) costs	\$0.00		
Misc. Groves Materials	\$1,116.11		
Kiosk Installation	\$2,411.78		
Gifts Given	\$163.66		
Licenses and Permits	\$25.00		
Meet and Greet	\$0.00		
Printing, Office, etc.	\$126.52		
Website - domain name 2 years	\$0.00		
Bank Services	\$41.25		
Handicap #1 to complete	\$35.05		
Other	\$0.00		
Total	\$3,937.16	\$3,937.16	
 <u>PROJECT EXPENSES(Handicap Trail Phase One)</u>			
Davidson for Fuel/Bobcat/Tracked	\$3,147.14		
Swanson's for Material	\$2,355.01		
R. Chamberlin- Roof Wood	\$560.00		
Swanson's for Material	\$630.76		
Davidson for Fuel//Tracked/Compactor	\$1,195.72		
Warren James Trucking	\$246.40		
Davidson - Roofing/Compactor	\$1,413.02		
Tractor and trailer rental: per hour	\$168.00		
Total	\$9,716.05	\$9,716.05	
 <u>PROJECT EXPENSES(Handicap Trail Phase Two)</u>			
Small World	\$3,920.00		
Signage	\$224.00		
0	\$0.00		
0	\$0.00		
0	\$0.00		
0	\$0.00		
0	\$0.00		
0	\$0.00		
Total	\$4,144.00	\$4,144.00	\$17,797.21

2011 Overall Balance	\$6,775.11	IN BANK	
Total Income	\$22,764.79	Regular Balance----->>	\$2,947.95
Total Expense	-\$17,797.21	Handicap 1 Balance----->>	\$0.00
Total	\$11,742.69	Handicap 2 Balance----->>	\$8,794.74
			\$11,742.69

Memorandum for Decision on benches for Groves

What follows is a paper on the bench issue with some pasted in material to give you thinking stuff. It has always been a plan that we would have some benches in the Groves and further that we would probably sell them with dedication plaques at some time.

I don't think this should be put off any longer as there is the beginning of a call for them. With the rest areas going into some Take It Easy trail benches will be needed soon. Some firms take time to make the benches so pre-ordering helps.

The District has more or less stopped its prior program of benches due to poor planning. It allowed as many as people wanted and on the waterfront so that now there are complaints about how many benches and the cemetery feel about so many.

Please review all of the following and formulate your ideas and opinions and let me know soonest. Without clear direction I have not dug deeply into the best suppliers and deal to go with and that should be done soon.

Send any questions you want before giving your final thoughts.

Bob

Sent for now to Michael, Gertrude, Mike Sutcliffe but after finding at least some common ground then a board decision should be made.

Heritage Forest and Hidden Grove Bench Policy Paper

November 25, 2012

(For review, comment and adoption of some policy prior to completion of handicap trail rest areas)

Introduction

It has long been recognized that some benches should be placed in the Groves as:

- Seniors and others need rest along the way
- In respect of the wheelchair trails, the 'pushers' need a break and to sit down with their charges
- Properly done benches can be attractive additions and add to the ambiance of the park like areas
- Funding for Groves projects may be realized from the 'sale' of benches to members of the public there must be a clear policy established with rules.

This paper will attempt to layout some guidelines for adoption.

Number of Benches to be limited

We do not want a forest of benches even if income is associated with them. In the right places an attractive bench can add to the ambiance of the forest but too many would be a lumber yard. A few 'rules' come to mind:

1. Benches shall only be placed in accordance with the "Bench Placement" and "Locations" guidelines set out herein.
2. When all suitable spots are used up then that will be the end of the placement of benches regardless of economic pressures.
3. But for at the very beginning of placements, no more than 2 benches shall be added per year. This will help spread out income for future caretakers of the Groves and give something new to publicize to enhance the Groves visibility.

Bench Placement Considerations

It makes sense to establish some general rules but always these are to be considered in light of common sense and maintaining the ambiance of the Groves. In general it is better to have areas with no benches so as to present a very natural experience than to cater to those who need to sit! For consideration:

1. No bench shall be in sight of another bench with a few special exceptions the 'might' be considered:
 - a. The parking area already looks like what it is and the addition of some benches would not make much difference to the appearance and might be functional.
 - b. Maybe 2 or 3 benches could be placed in the Ancient Grove area as a special place for contemplation; however, great care must be exercised not to spoil the spot.
 - c. An extra bench or two might be considered at the Pine Bluff as a rest there is likely and sitting and contemplating the view is desirable. The forest area in the immediate vicinity behind the view is not particularly inspiring to worry so about.
 - d. On a handicap trail if it is determined that a bench is really needed at a spot and it, nevertheless, is in sight of another bench, this might be allowed.
 - e. The Locations set out in the section which is later in the paper will be the priority allowed positions for the start.

Bench Style(s)

Only one style of bench shall be adopted. For practical reasons there may have to be a departure from an exact setup as manufacturers change their product or availability but this in no way should preclude keeping close to the same look. Some considerations in deciding what bench to select:

1. Low maintenance – the new 'plastic' look like wood might be the obvious choice but maybe just good cedar should be considered too. Most of the affordable plastic ones have metal legs, etc. and this might not be so attractive.
2. In any event should really look like wood to blend in
3. Can be affixed to ground so that it cannot be stolen or tipped.
4. Should have arms of some kind so seniors can lean

5. Back will accept brass plaque or go the route of engraved back boards – decide so common

6. As reasonable as possible so we can profit without excluding less wealthy purchasers.

At the end of this paper there are some selections of choices found on the internet and the costs can go all the way from less than \$500 to over \$1,500. More on costs later.

Donation or Dedication Policy

Donations included in the bench cost are an obvious way for the Society to gain some funds to carry on ongoing maintenance over many years. Not a lot of money but then for just maintenance not a lot should be needed.

Here again some definite rules should be spelled out. For example: we do not want the Groves conveying the impression of a graveyard so language and style on dedication plaques must be controlled; we do not want to make the markup so much as to put the benches out of reach of the less wealthy. In writing this part of the paper the donation/dedication policies of some others has been reviewed.

First some general rules (actual wordings that might be considered can be written and agreed when basics are agreed):

1. The forgoing Placement/style/number considerations will apply
2. It must be clear that there is a standard bench and plaque (or engraving) style and it will not be deviated from.
3. Placement will be the decision of the Society but, where reasonable and available, a choice of open locations will be given on request.
4. The wording of any plaque must be approved by the Society and this is not negotiable.
5. Payment must be in advance.
6. I don't think the Society can undertake any real guarantee of maintenance and can only undertake to do its best. We do not know if there will be volunteers or funds available 10 years from now – unlike a municipality.

Donation Ideas to Consider

Paying for the bench and the plaque including taxes is the first part of the process but the second part is the income or donation to the Society. Here are some ideas:

1. Keep fixed total cost including donation below \$1,200
2. Issue tax receipt on a round number just over the cost including taxes of the bench. I.e. bench including plaque and taxes is, say, \$629 issue tax receipt for \$500 on donation of \$1,200. This saves worrying about minor price, shipping or tax fluctuations at dealer.
3. At the start of each year IF there is no waiting list consider an auction with a reserve for the best spots left. This might be a good way to start the program and generate interest – competition always gets folks involved.
4. Real Trailbuilders (maybe defined as worked more than 20 times) for any dedication or survivors do who are getting bench dedicated to the Trailbuilder get bench at cost.
5. On line form and waiting list (as no more than 2 per year).
6. Non-refundable deposit to go on waiting list and it would be forfeited if spot became free and buyer did not follow through.
7. Form would allow for choice of open spots.

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR MORE INFORMATION TO HELP MAKE DECISIONS

Some Cedar Bench Ideas Available to help decide if we should to the cedar route



Western Red Cedar Garden Bench - Patio and
by [GoCedar](#)

★★★★★ (1 customer review) |  Like (1)

Price: **CDN\$ 224.99**

Only 5 left in stock.

Ships from and sold by [Go Cedar - Outdoor Living](#).

Ordering for Christmas? Based on the shipping schedule of Go [Cedar - Outdoor Living](#) shipping details.

SKU: LA230 - (2" x 30") \$93.00 (Times New Roman Bold)



All Things Cedar

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- All Things Cedar now offers professional laser-burned wood engraving on any Western Red Cedar product.
- Choose from one of our standard designs, sizes or font options below or send in your own design.
- Wood laser engraving makes a perfect gift that is all the more personal.

Slo Art Craft & Design Gallery

Furniture

Sculpture

Other Media



Hey Bob, **(N.B. I checked and this one is \$2,800)**

I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the meeting on March 27th (I'll be away in UK). But I'd like to make a suggestion about benches. Instead of the plastic covered metal ones that were discussed at the last meeting, I'd like consideration be given to wooden benches like the ones made by West Coast Cedar Homes in Gibsons. The funky furniture store - Slo Design Gallery - on Wharf (beside the Bayview restaurant) has some beautiful handmade benches. Sadly this store is closing this month, but the owner Kirk Michael will still be operating out of his home on Surf Circle.

I raised the concern about vandalism and Kirk's response is that a beautiful example of craftsmanship gets treated with respect, whereas something manufactured to resist vandalism gives the vandals a challenge which they readily accept.

Prices of Kirk's handmade benches are very reasonable.

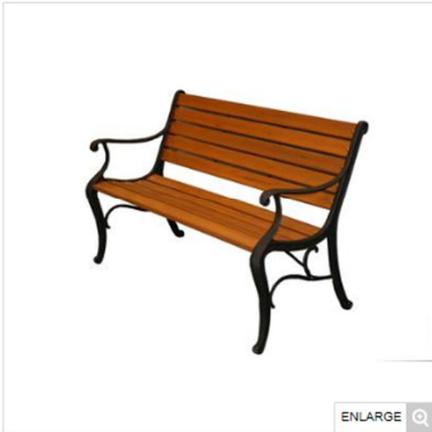
Kirk Michael 604 989 9925. www.qoslo.ca

Cheers from Rupert

Some Plastic Alternatives to Look at

The Home Depot > Outdoors > Patio Furniture > Patio Chairs, Benches & Loungers > EON Classic Park Bench

Share Page Print



EON EON Classic Park Bench

Model: PB-CL01-RC08 | Internet/Cat: 924745 |
Store SKU: 1000666719

Product sold: **ONLINE ONLY**

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5
[READ REVIEWS](#) | [REVIEW THIS PRODUCT](#)
[FOLLOW THIS PRODUCT](#)

Like 4

+1 122

ENLARGE

MORE IMAGES



- Shop More EON Products
- Shop More Patio Furniture

OVERVIEW

Spend more time relaxing and less time maintaining with this Classic Style EON Park Bench from Gracious Living. EON resin solutions provide the natural beauty of real wood without the worry of fading, peeling, cracking or rotting! Never again will you need to sand, paint or stain to enjoy lasting results! Crafted with a sturdy cast iron frame, this bench is guaranteed to outlast the seasons with years of maintenance free beauty.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

20 Year EON Warranty. For details please call 1-866-DIAL-EON.

\$149.00

ONLINE INVENTORY
Currently on back order.
Reserve purchase now,
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Mon-Sat: 8am - 11pm EST
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CUSTOMERS WHO VIEWED THIS ITEM ALSO VIEWED



Lifetime Products
Wood Alternative Glider...

\$199.00

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Eon as well but need to see if Home Depot would bring in and price. At Canada Tire too...

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Enter Stock # or Keyword

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Home > Furniture & Office > Benches & Picnic Tables > Benches - Plastic/Recycled Plastic > Plastic/Recycled Plastic Benches with Back & Arms > 6' Victorian Bench With Back Rest and Arm Rests in Recycled Plastic Lumber

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 [Heritage Bench, Recycled Plastic, 8 ft. Green Frame, Gray](#)

 [Heritage Bench, Recycled Plastic, 6 ft. Green Frame, Gray](#)

Categories

→ [Benches & Picnic Tables](#)



see additional photos

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E-mail Page

Print Page

Qty: 1

ADD TO CART



6' Victorian Bench With Back Rest and Arm Rests in Recycled Plastic Lumber

Availability: Usually ships in 21 to 24 days [Like](#) 0
Stock No: WB250832

Quantity Discount

QTY	Price
1-2	\$834.00 ea.
3+	\$793.00 ea.

Chat with a Salesperson

Add this item to your list

Product Information

Photo Gallery

Product Q&A

[Write a review for this product.](#)

[Write A Review](#)

RECYCLED PLASTIC LUMBER BENCHES

Victorian Bench with Back

Recycled plastic lumber benches provide maintenance-free solutions for outdoor benches. Great for parks, picnic areas, university campuses and more. Framing is made of nylon. Wood is made out of recycled plastic that resists weather, decomposition and insects. Base plates allow floor anchoring for permanent installation. Benches measure 6'L overall.

A couple of Donation guides



Donors

Login

HONOUR THEIR LEGACY



Donation Information

- Amount:**
- Legacy Bench Endowment \$25,000.00
 - New Term Bench \$4,000.00
 - Term Bench - Renewal \$4,000.00
 - Term Bench - Maintenance \$2,000.00
 - Term Bench - Plaque Change \$500.00
 - \$

Designation:

Additional Information

Type of gift: One-time gift



HOME CELEBRATE BC PARKS THINGS TO DO **PARTNERSHIPS** CONSERVATION PLANNING ABOUT

Celebrate BC Parks

Things to Do

Partnerships

Commemorative Gifting

100 Park Bench Challenge

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[What Can You Sponsor?](#)

[In Which Park Can You Sponsor?](#)

[Commemorative Plaques and Inscriptions](#)

[How Does it Work?](#)

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What Can You Sponsor?

Classic Park Bench

Made of sturdy western red cedar industrial clears "B and Better" graded to the "Standard Grading Rules for Canadian Lumber" published by the National Lumber Grades Authority and fitted and built in accordance with best trade practices.

[View more bench photos](#)

\$3,000 - Installation, plaque and maintenance of site for 10 years

Parks Division

DONATION POLICY



The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) believes in providing opportunities to all applicants who wish to observe, acknowledge or remember a significant event, occasion or individual and who wish to beautify public parks by installing site furnishings or amenities.

The Parks Services Manager is responsible for accepting submissions for donations within SCR D parks, overseeing standards for furnishings and amenities, and recommending revisions to the policy as needed.

All requests for donations to be located within the SCR D Parks system must be submitted in writing to the Parks Division for consideration. The location site is subject to the need within the Parks system, with every effort being made to accommodate the donor's wishes. The Parks Division does reserve the right to determine the final location of the donation.

- Donations to the SCR D are accepted with the explicit approval of the Parks Services Manager.
- Donations to the SCR D are not to be accepted where conditions are attached to the donation which would create an unacceptable obligation for the SCR D, or where unacceptably high operating or maintenance expenditures would result.
- The SCR D understands that the donated item may have sentimental value however, it is not considered to be a memorial or shrine. To that end, the SCR D respectfully requests that there be no placement of flowers, wreaths, pictures, etc. at the site and that there be no added fixtures to the donated item.
- Because the donation becomes public property, donors should be aware that they do not have any priority use of the donated item. Parks staff maintains all features of our parks in, priority treatment will not be given to donated items.
- Wording of dedication plaques must be approved by the SCR D prior to ordering.
- The SCR D will maintain the donated item and agrees to replace or repair the item and/or plaque due to vandalism or wear up to a period of ten (10) years. After ten years the SCR D will not replace the donated item due to vandalism or wear.

Bench Dedication/Donation Program

Through our bench program friends and families can create a salutation or dedication by placing a public bench on one of the Groves' pathways or trails. Each bench carries a different story through the words engraved on the attached bronze plaque.

The benches are an attractive and useful addition to our trails providing a place for visitors to rest and to contemplate the beauty of the Groves. They are much appreciated by the many that visit and use Sechelt Groves' pathways every day.

The benches are donations to the Groves and therefore **qualify for an income tax receipt**. Part of the donation goes to: purchase of the bench including delivery and tax; the plaque and its engraving and installation. Any remainder goes directly to the Society to assist in paying overall annual costs for the Groves development and maintenance.

Benches

The current design is known as a St. James Park bench and is of commercial quality manufactured from low upkeep recycled plastic which appears to be wood. It is rot proof and very strong. If we see a need to change suppliers then there may be a change in the bench design but in such an event we will advise you before any charges are incurred.

Plaque wording

The wording used on any plaque is subject to Society approval. We wish to discourage a cemetery type feeling in the Groves and therefore will not be keen on wordings that emphasize a "dearly departed". Try to be original and uplifting.

Bench Cost

It costs \$2000 to sponsor a bench for a minimum of 10 years. After 10 years, there may or may not be a renewal charge but we cannot confirm any policy that far down the road. As a volunteer organization we cannot commit to how volunteers may be working then. Maybe the Groves will have a different status as public parks or preserved some other way.

Before any payment is processed we will confirm all details including the location and give you a chance to withdraw or amend your details.

Bench Placement and Number of Benches Allowed

The Society has chosen where it feels benches are appropriate and set out its priorities. You may choose any spot on the list but we hope you will choose one of the priority spots as your first choice. As a general rule benches will only be allowed at listed spots but you may make a special application for an alternate subject to Board approval.

Please take special note that the Board may determine that only a limited number of benches may be installed in any one year. Preference will be given to the priority list and on a first come, first served basis. A waiting list may be established subject to deposits from those going on it.

Installation and Bench Maintenance

From the time of the receipt of the donation in full it may take approximately 10-12 weeks to complete the installation of a bench (supply, weather and workparty availability are factors).

Our volunteer workparty will do their utmost to keep 'your' bench in good shape including what refurbishing we can do and fixing any placement problems but unfortunately as a completely

volunteer group with limited funds we cannot offer any warranty or guarantee beyond that we might get from the supplier of the bench. We will do our very best for you.

Tax Receipts

All donations are to be made out to the Sechelt Groves Society in advance of our placing orders for benches and plaques. More than one person can donate to a bench. Individual tax receipts can be issued for donations of \$20.00 or more to the donor whose name and address appears on the cheque. Cash donations can also be tax receipted when accompanied by the donor name and address.

Choose a bench location from the list – see PDF form list here.

AND THEN

Order your Bench now! Use our online order form by clicking here

OR

Print out a form from a PDF form available here.

Current Bench – 5 foot St. James Park Bench (2012)

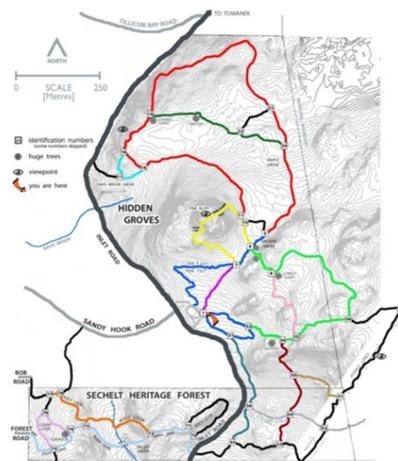


Approved Placement Sites

X's in RED are current PRIORITY spots

Describe your spot by reference to post numbers i.e. "The red x between 3 and # closest to #"

(Note new maps in sections would be done with x's as appropriate. In sections so could be large for easy senior reading)



Hidden Grove: a Sunshine Coast success story keeps getting better

by Bob D'Arcy

For everyone who has not kept up on progress at Hidden Grove, you have been missing the creation (and polishing) of a jewel on the Sunshine Coast. In just the past 18 months there have been many developments.

A charitable society was formed in 2011 so that money might be more easily raised for major projects. Including “in kind” and \$15/hour accounting for volunteer labour, the Sechelt Groves



Hidden Grove's new entrance kiosk.

Bob D'Arcy photo

Society has raised over \$60,000. Much of the “in kind” donations are local businesses giving either substantial discounts or free services or both. The SCCA's own Jason Herz has been at the forefront of this. Cash grants have been received from several large organizations. The District of Sechelt has assisted directly in some work, and the Sechelt Community Forest has been very helpful and supportive. And, of course, there are the volunteer trail builders who work every week, year around.

There is now a surfaced parking lot that includes two spots for handicap parking and a bus/RV parking lane. The lot is busy, so there are plans to add some more spots without taking down any trees. Proper signage is in place.

All of the many trails have posts at every intersection with maps and guidance. You will not get lost!

Thanks to the Community Forest and West Coast Log Homes

an impressive entrance kiosk, built from large cedars and roofed, is installed at the start of the trails. It contains a bench and clear, illustrated signs about the Groves with guidance for the visitor.

On May 13, 2012, there was a grand ceremony celebrating the completion of the “Take It Easy—Ayat-tsut” accessibility trail, opening up the heart of Hidden Grove to wheelchairs, those with walkers, moms with strollers and seniors who may have problems on forest trails. The roughing in of a second accessibility trail has been done, and it is planned to have “Monty's Way” open before year end. The volunteer workers are keen to get at it.

Aside from the major projects there is ongoing maintenance and new trail building. Application has been made to protect the whole Groves area as a recreation site under Section 56 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. It is to remain a natural, recreational area with no formal structures or facilities within it.

Everyone should visit, often. You are encouraged to review the Groves at the website, secheltgroves.com, where you will find maps, photos, virtual tours, updates and more—even an opportunity to join the Society online and support the work.

Changelt at the SC Credit Union

The SCCA would like to thank all its members and supporters who have been able to donate to us in past years. The Sunshine Coast Credit Union (SCCU) has also supported the SCCA by providing its banking services to us free of charge since 1998.

Recently, SCCU extended its community support through a new program called Changelt, providing free registration with this program to local charities, including the SCCA.

Changelt is a program whereby SCCU members can choose to round up their MemberCard (debit card) purchases and designate their change to their favourite local charities, such as the SCCA. Activating a MemberCard is simple and can be done in minutes online at www.changeitcanada.com or by visiting one of the three SCCU branches in Pender Harbour, Sechelt and Gibsons. You then set your rounding preference, your maximum donation and which charities are to receive your change. The total donations are shown as one transaction each month on your statement.

Monies directed to the SCCA will be automatically deposited in our account. The SCCA would be pleased to offer a charitable tax receipt for amounts totaling over \$25/year.

More information can be found at www.sunshineccu.com/Personal/InOurCommunity/CommunitySupport/ChangeIt.



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www.southcoastford.com



“Helping Build a Greener Future”

Robert D'Arcy

From: Sechelt Groves Society <secheltgroves@eastlink.ca>
Sent: December-10-12 11:55 AM
To: rdarcy@dccnet.com
Subject: Sechelt Groves News #9

(Sent blind to all current and past members plus some special folks)

December 10, 2012

Hi Robert D'Arcy,

Some news for you as usual.

1. SAVE MONEY ON YOUR 2012 INCOME TAX!!!! and/or do something very special for Christmas.

We have started a Dedicated Bench program which we hope has 2 big benefits for the Groves: it pays for some needed benches; and, it should raise some funds for the Society.

The entire amount is treated as a donation which according to Revenue Canada's website will produce a total tax credit of over \$800. That should ease the burden a bit. To deduct from your 2012 taxes you need to have the donation in by December 31st.

When you review the details you can see we are restricting the locations and the number of benches to avoid a clutter and changing the Groves into a cemetery. Yes, they are \$2,000 but that is cheaper than the District of Sechelt or the Regional District or the City of Calgary for that matter! The bill includes a very high quality bench, a brass plaque with your wording(Society approved though) , installation and maintenance as best as our volunteers can do for the next 10 years.

Please review it all now at <http://secheltgroves.com/benches.html>



2. The Trailbuilders are all ready to get started on Monty's Way - the second wheelchair trail - early in January. It should only take about 6 weeks to do but we will keep you posted.

3. Those Trailbuilders volunteers really get some challenges! The last big winds took down between 50 and 60 trees right over parts of the 'green' trail. Within 5 days your hardy gang had the mess cleared up and the trail is back to like new.

4. For those who are sending us comments about it, we have now approached the District about paving part of the entrance to stop the big potholes. We hope to hear or see action soonest.

NOW, it is not too early to send in your 2013 membership renewal. We hope you attach a donation too and if you do it before December 31st you can apply the donation to either your 2012 or 2013 tax form. Remember it is easy on line - Just [CLICK HERE to RENEW or JOIN and DONATE](#) or here [TO JUST DONATE](#).

Oh! and donate a bench while your are at it<grin>

Have a very Happy Holiday Season and a wonderful 2013.

VISIT THE GROVES AND SEND YOUR FRIENDS.

In the Groove in the Grove!

Sechelt Groves Society

www.secheltgroves.com



Sechelt Groves Society

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

Email: secheltgroves@eastlink.ca

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

Phone: 604-885-5766

Date: December 13, 2012

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

Application for 2013 Grant in Aid

We are pleased to attach an application for a Grant in Aid from the District of Sechelt within the advertised closing date. We sincerely hope you will find our application in order and we look forward to the positive and favorable response from the District to our application.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Thank you very much,

Bob D'Arcy
Chair

Attachments:

Executive Summary - 1 page

District of Sechelt Grant Application, Grant in Aid - 7 pages including Board list and Project budgets and Financial Statement

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Executive Summary

Sechelt Groves Society Grant Application

By the time this year's Grant in Aid allocations will have been distributed the Society will have successfully completed 3 major projects over the 2011-2012 period: two wheelchair trails each in excess of 480 metres into the Hidden Grove forest and the installation of an entrance kiosk with signage. The first trail opening featured Mayor John Henderson as a guest speaker.

The Society has only a few more major projects on its agenda: expansion of the parking lot and the installation of at least one wheelchair accessible toilet facility near the entrance area. The latter item is certainly in demand we find. We have not specifically budgeted for either item at this time but we will be working toward that end in due course.

Aside from the major projects the Society continues to maintain the entire complex of the Sechelt Heritage Forest and Hidden Grove. It is not a small chore and involves hundreds of volunteer man hours in all seasons of the year. In just one incident this year over 50 trees suffered blow down on one stretch of trail and all were cleared and the trail open within 5 days. Just doing regular care incurs expenses only a few of which are:

- Upkeep and replacement of tools used
- Fuel for power saws
- Material for grooming trails
- Railings and stairs in steeper areas
- Signage at every intersection. This year we will launching on a project to purchase and install over 50 metal map signs to replace the current laminated paper ones and to incorporate the new trails.
- General expenses for society registration and fund raising.

We feel it is very important to point out that we strongly believe the Society actually saves the District taxpayers money even when a Grant is made. Under a formal agreement the Society has taken on maintenance of this 180 acres of recreational land thereby relieving Parks and Public Works of these costs. Just the tree clearing for the one storm cited above would have involved several District employees engaged for several days for several thousand tax dollars.

We are fairly confident we can raise funds for the remaining major projects and we have a loyal membership that contributes to the general expenses but we do need help for these on a day to day basis. The District Grant dollars are the basic funds to keep us going day to day.

Daily recognition of District contributions are on our large (4'x3') kiosk sign.



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Kisses and hugs to the Hidden Grove Trail Builders for all their hard work in building and maintaining Hidden Grove trails.